AGRI-NEWS

January 7, 1991

For immediate release

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January 7, 1991
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Farm fuel taxes change with the GST

Alberta farmers need to know two things about the seven per cent federal Goods and Services Tax (GST) that replaced the federal fuel tax on gasoline and diesel fuel on January 1 says an Alberta Agriculture energy engineer.

"First, they should know that the GST will be calculated on the gross price of farm fuel," says John Chang. "Second, even though the old tax has ended, farmers can still claim a rebate on the former fuel tax."

Revenue Canada has indicated the GST will be calculated on the gross price of farm fuel, that is, the price before deducting the Alberta Farm Fuel Distribution Allowance (AFFDA) grant, says Chang. "However, it should be pointed out that any GST paid on a farm input, like fuel, will be available for the GST input tax credit. Note, farmers must register with Revenue Canada to receive that GST credit."

Chang also encourages producers to apply for rebates on their farm fuel purchases from before December 31, 1990. While the federal fuel rebate programs officially expired as the tax changed at the beginning of the year, farmers can still apply for the rebate.

Through the federal programs, farmers can receive a rebate on gasoline and diesel fuel used off-highway for farming purposes. Farmers with a sales tax bulk permit receive the federal fuel tax rebate at the time of purchase.

The second program, the federal excise gasoline tax refund program, provides a 1.5 cents per litre refund on gasoline used for farming purposes. "This rebate must be applied for," stresses Chang, "But, it's well worth the effort.

"The amount of the rebate from the two programs depends on the amount of fuel purchased, but even for a moderately sized farm, the end cheque can be significant."

For example, if a farmer used 10,000 litres of marked gasoline and another 10,000 litres of diesel between January, 1989 and December, 1990. Using a 20 per cent on-highway deduction allowed most farmers, the Federal Fuel Tax Rebate works out to $920 for the two-year period.

(Cont'd)

Farm fuel taxes change with the GST (cont'd)

As well, the Federal Excise Gasoline Tax Refund, calculated with the same 20 per cent personal use deduction, works out to $120. Between the two rebate programs the example farmer would receive $1,040.

"If you're planning to file an application form for either rebate, do it soon," says Chang. "There is a two year time limit for both programs. This means that the claim can only cover fuel purchased in the two-year period ending on the date of filing. For example, if you filed January 30 this year the claim would go back to January 30, 1989. If you file July 30 this year, the claim would go back to July 30, 1989."

Farmers who need application forms or further information on registering for the GST credit or the rebate program, should contact a Revenue Canada district office in Edmonton, Red Deer, Calgary or Lethbridge. The office addresses and telephone numbers are: 4th floor, Selkirk House, 555-4th Avenue S.W., Calgary, Alberta, T2P 3E7, 221-3001, (FAX 299-3731); 15th floor, Park Square, 10001 Bellamy Hill, Edmonton, Alberta, T5J 3B6, 495-3420 (FAX 495-7136); 3rd Floor, 4814 Ross Street, Red Deer, Alberta, T4N 1X4, 341-7006 (FAX 341-7052); or, 3rd floor, 704 4th Avenue South, Lethbridge, Alberta, T1J 4A9, 382-3013 (FAX 382-3052).

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Contact: John Chang
427-2181

January 7, 1991
For immediate release

Central Alberta groups partners in soil conservation

Central Alberta farmers are the beneficiaries of a unique soil conservation partnership formed last spring.

The Municipal District of Clearwater, the County of Wetaskiwin and the Rocky Mountain House based Grey Wooded Forage Association joined forces to promote soil and water conservation as the West Central Conservation Partnership.

"By pooling the funds available from the Canada/Alberta Soil Conservation Initiative (CASCI) program and by working collectively rather than individually, the partners felt that they would have a greater impact," says Ben Froebel, north central regional soil conservation co-ordinator.

Grey Wooded soils are the most common soils in the partnership's region. These soils are prone to erosion because of their low organic matter and usually are used for pasture and hay production, so the partnership has focused its efforts on forage production as a soil conservation tool.

A no-till forage seed drill, pasture-hayland aerator and chain harrows were purchased through CASCI's soil conservation equipment support program. All are available to farmers for a nominal fee on a demonstration basis. They can be used for forage stand rehabilitation as an alternative to plowing and reseeding.

Producer response for this equipment has been positive. "Despite its beginnings well into the field season, the group made impressive progress from the standpoint of its equipment demonstrations and other conservation activities," says Art Howell, Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Administration (PFRA) area soil conservationist in the north central region.

Part of its initial success was in its approach says partnership co-ordinator Will Davies. "The partnership is a grass roots conservation organization taking a practical approach to the use of soil and water on a sustainable basis."

(Cont'd)

Central Alberta groups partners in soil conservation (cont'd)

This winter, the partners will be busy with on-farm conservation planning, extension and awareness activities. As well, with help from area Alberta Wheat Pool Conservation 2000 clubs, conservation equipment is being booked for use next spring.

Next year will mark the start of a joint five year applied research project with Agriculture Canada. The project is designed to provide practical information on the effect of aeration, timing of aeration and rate of nitrogen fertilizer application on forage stand rehabilitation.

The partnership is guided by a six person board of directors chaired by Case Korver, a Rocky Mountain House farmer. Davies, the full time co-ordinator, was hired in the summer and is based at Alberta Agriculture's Rimbey district office. Ron Koots, the Rimbey district agriculturist, is the partnership's secretary.

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Contact: Ben Froebel
340-5329

Will Davies
843-2201

Art Howell
854-4448

January 7, 1991
For immediate release

Zero till yields measure up in east central Alberta

Tillage research in east central Alberta is providing some practical information on tillage options in that part of the province.

"Before the project started in 1988, very little soils and cropping research had been done on the relationship between soil type and cropping practices," says Dave McAndrew, research manager. "Relevant, local information was needed to help farmers make decisions about their tillage practices."

Agriculture Canada's research substation in Vegreville is conducting studies at five sites in east central Alberta. The sites--near Hairy Hill, Plamondon, Elk Point, Wainwright and Alliance--represent most of the agro-climatic areas of that region. To date, yield data has been collected from three years of continuous barley cropping comparing: zero tillage; minimum tillage; conventional tillage with one fall tillage operation; and, conventional tillage with four fall tillage operations.

McAndrew says so far zero tillage has compared favourably to conventional systems. "Zero tillage resulted in significant yield increases at one site in 1988 and one site in 1990. There appears to be a significant advantage to zero tillage in dry years and no disadvantage in other years."

In contrast, minimum tillage appears to have no yield advantage over conventional tillage. However, the increased crop residue will reduce erosion potential on these soils, he says.

"Two more years of this study will give a good set of data on the applicability of zero tillage for the different soil types in east central Alberta," he adds.

Research funding for the project is from the Agriculture Canada and the Canada-Alberta Agreement on Soil, Water and Cropping Research and Technology Transfer (CARTT). CARTT's objective is to develop and transfer appropriate conservation tillage and cropping technology which will minimize soil degradation and sustain economic crop production.

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Contact: Dr. Dave McAndrew
632-3985

January 7, 1991
For immediate release

Swine specialists discuss nutrition innovations at Banff conference

A special session on innovations in swine nutrition at the 1991 Banff Pork Seminar will feature three Alberta Agriculture swine specialists and farmers from their regions.

"The three regional specialists will each be joined by a progressive pork producer to talk about an innovation the producer is using in his operation," says Fred Schuld, head of Alberta Agriculture's pork industry branch. "It's hoped these sessions will demonstrate pork producers in Alberta are using leading edge technology and will present the very practical aspects of that technology."

Marvin Salomons, central Alberta regional specialist, and producer Ciaran Ormand of Ranchview Farms of Bentley will discuss Ormand's experience with automated liquid feeding systems. Southern Alberta regional specialist Alan George and Bill Hutchings, of the Pig Improvement Company in Acme, will present information on wet/dry feeding. Electronic dry sow feeding will be discussed by Bert Dening, Barrhead and Peace region swine specialist, and producer Jack Kalisvaart of Gibbons.

An additional part of the nutrition innovations session will be provided by Sam Baidoo of the University of Alberta. He will discuss the university's research work with cafeteria feeding.

The January 22 to 25 seminar is at the Banff Springs Hotel. Registration and other information are available from Alberta Agriculture district offices and regional swine specialists or, from the University of Alberta extension services at 492-3029.

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Contact: Fred Schuld
427-5320

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Eyes key at provincial Rural Crime Watch workshop

The watchful eyes of the people involved in Rural Crime Watch organizations are the key to the success of the crime prevention groups, and that's the theme of the 1991 provincial crime watch workshop.

Hosted by the Sturgeon Rural Crime Watch Association, the workshop will be held at the Namao Elementary School February 1 and 2.

Broadcaster and reporter John Barry will speak on the conference theme of "your eyes--the key to success". "He'll discuss how Crime Watch members can get involved, provide accurate observation and do proper reporting, " says Cliff Munroe, of the Alberta Farmers' Advocate's office.

Other speakers are Clare Gill, co-ordinator of the RCMP K-Division drug prevention program, and a representative of the provincial Foresty, Lands and Wildlife department.

Participants will share stories from their organization's activities and discuss resolutions. Each Crime Watch area is invited to submit resolutions. If passed, the resolutions are forwarded to the appropriate level of government.

"One of the resolutions is a proposal from the fish and wildlife branch for the Report-A-Poacher program to join Rural Crime Watch," says Munroe.

The workshop agenda also includes presentations to winners of a provincial student essay and poster contest. "This is the first annual provincial contest, in the past they've only been local contests," he says.

For more information about the conference, contact Cal Putnam, president of the Sturgeon Crime Watch Association, at 921-2435 in Bon Accord, or Maggie Lamb, workshop co-ordinator, at 638-2969 in Sundre.

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Contact: Cliff Munroe
427-2433

January 7, 1991
For immediate release

Getting more bang from your bucks
(Seventh, and final, in a series)

Planning for crop production in 1991 is more important than ever before says an Alberta Agriculture specialist.

"Budgeting for crop production is very important," says Craig Edwards, a farm management economist with the farm business management branch in Olds. "Cash invested or spent to grow crops in 1991 must return at least one dollar within the following year for each dollar spent in 1991, so cash operating capital will be available to seed crops in 1992.

"If it doesn't work out that way, farm operators will have less cash for operating expenses in 1992 than they had for operating expenses in 1991, unless they are able to borrow or get money elsewhere."

For example, a farmer farming 1,000 cultivated acres and expects cash expenses of $50 per acre in 1991, will want to get back more than $50,000 before planting the 1992 crop. About $20,000 will probably be spent on machinery operating and maintenance costs and other costs that can't be changed. The other $30,000 can be spent for crop inputs such as seed, fertilizer and other chemicals--this is where the farmer is able to make a choice of resources to get the best return. "It's to the producer's advantage to look for and find places where a dollar spent will return more than a dollar within the year," he says.

To find where the best returns can be expected in an operation, Edwards suggests producers learn the concept of equal marginal returns and how to apply the principle to their own expected expenses and revenues. That concept is included in a comprehensive farm management course. Farmers interested in participating should register as soon as possible with an Alberta Agriculture district office for Gear Up Advantage.

As well, the farm business management branch has two publications available as a planning package. Request the package by writing Edwards at the Farm Business Management Branch, Box 2000, Olds, Alberta, TOM 1P0 or by calling 556-4248.

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Contact: Craig Edwards
556-4248

January 7, 1991
For immediate release

Alberta Agriculture appointments

THORHILD HAS NEW DISTRICT AGRICULTURIST

Michael Kirylchuk has moved from Alberta Agriculture's district office in Athabasca to become the new district agriculturist in Thorhild. "I look forward to the challenges of getting to know the farming community, providing extension expertise and working with private industry and producer associations," he says of his new position. Kirylchuk joined the department initially with the Crow Benefit Offset program, then moved to the Athabasca office in October, 1988. He graduated from the University of Alberta in 1987 with a BSc in agriculture. Kirylchuk was raised on his family's mixed commercial beef and grain operation in the Lac La Biche area. He can be contacted in Thorhild at 398-3993.

INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT SECTION MANAGER APPOINTED

Ted Parker has joined Alberta Agriculture as manager of the industrial development section (formerly the process engineering section) in the agri-food and processing development branch. "The new name more appropriately describes the section's activities which concentrate on adding value to agricultural commodities by encouraging new investment in agricultural processing and the food industry," says Lou Normand, branch head. Parker comes to the department with more than a decade's experience in a number of senior financial positions with Canada Packers, including finance director of Haverhill Meat Products, CP's UK-based European food processing operations. His background gives him solid knowledge and experience in corporate investment, international trade and the agri-food industry. "This is a challenging time to be involved in food industry development," Parker says. "I'm excited about the opportunity to assist and work with a world class agri-food and processing

TED PARKER

(Cont'd)

Alberta Agriculture appointments (cont'd)

INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT SECTION MANAGER APPOINTED (cont'd)

industry." Most recently Parker was manager of resource management services with Alberta Social Services. His work experience also includes senior positions with a business management company and a synethetic fibre and packaging manufacturer. Parker grew up on a mixed farm in Nova Scotia's Annapolis Valley. He can be contacted in Edmonton at 427-7366.

WESTLOCK HAS NEW DISTRICT HOME ECONOMIST

Kerry Schwing has moved from Alberta Agriculture's Coronation district office to take on duties as the Westlock district home economist. Schwing joined the department after graduating from the University of Alberta's BSc in home economics program in 1987. "I'm looking forward to getting out and meeting with the farm families in the Westlock area," she says. As a district home economist, Schwing offers programming in farm record keeping, nutrition, estate planning, farm home remodelling, food safety, clothing and textiles, Alberta food product promotion and personal development. She also works closely with area 4-H clubs. Schwing, originally from Redwater, grew up on her family's mixed farm in that area. She can be reached in Westlock at 349-4465.

SOUTH REGIONAL MARKETING SPECIALIST APPOINTED

Doug Cornell is the new Alberta Agriculture regional marketing specialist for the southern and south central regions. Cornell, who had been the Coronation district agriculturist since April 1986, says he started his new job as the busy winter extension season was gearing up. "My job encompasses teaching farmers marketing from the farm gate--the process, the options and the opportunities," he says. Cornell is a resource person for Alberta Agriculture district home economist and district agriculturist planned marketing courses and programs. He is a 1984 graduate of the University of Guelph's BSc in agriculture program. After graduation, he worked for a producer organization in Manitoba and then trained as a district agriculturist in Innisfail. Cornell grew up on a mixed farm with a pure bred beef operation

(Cont'd)

SOUTH REGIONAL MARKETING SPECIALIST APPOINTED (cont'd)
near Fort Frances in the Rainy River district of northwestern Ontario. He can be contacted in Airdrie at 948-8536

NEW DISTRICT AGRICULTURIST IN ATHABASCA

Trevor Yurchak has joined Alberta Agriculture as the new district agriculturist in Athabasca. Yurchak isn't new to the department, he spent two summers working as an assistant district agriculturist in Lamont and Vegreville. Yurchak graduated from the University of Alberta in the spring of 1990 with a BSc in agriculture. He says he sees his new job as having three main areas--extension, information and advice. "My previous experience should help me in my new role, and I'm looking forward to meeting more producers and working with them in the New Year." Yurchak was raised on a mixed family farm north of Lamont. He can be reached in Athabasca at 675-2252.

SOUTHERN SHEEP SPECIALIST APPOINTED

Kim Stanford is the new provincial sheep specialist for southern Alberta. Stanford will be based in Airdrie. "I'll be using my professional training and practical experience to assist producers in all aspects of sheep production," she says. Stanford is also responsible for managing the provincial sheep record of performance ram test station at Olds College. Stanford holds BSc (1983) and MSc (1987) degrees from the University of Alberta. She began her professional career as a reproductive physiology technician at the Agriculture Canada research station in Lethbridge. Most recently, she was head research technician for the sheep program at the station, a position she held from 1988. Her work has included reproductive evaluation of rams, nutritional studies in lamb growth, lamb carcass evaluations and assessing wool quality. Stanford grew up on a mixed farm near Magrath in southern Alberta. She can be reached in Airdrie at 948-8517.

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Agri-News briefs

VIDEO HIGHLIGHTS ALBERTA GROWN PROTEIN: PEAS

Most Alberta district video libraries have an addition to their shelves that will interest producers looking for a new livestock feed or an alternative crop. The 19-minute Alberta Agriculture production of "Peas...Alberta Grown Protein" looks at some of the advantages of growing and using field peas for feed. Peas are an excellent source of protein and energy and have high levels of the amino acid lysine which make it an excellent livestock feed. The production discusses the huge potential peas have in Alberta's agriculture industry, and that the crop may be the success story of the 1990s. The video features segments with farmers and experts from Alberta Agriculture and the University of Alberta. For lending information, contact an Alberta Agriculture district office or the Film Library at 7000-113 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T6H 5T6.

FORAGE COMPETITION ENTRIES DEADLINE FEB. 1

Hay, silage and haylage entries for the Alberta Dairy Congress forage competition must be received by February 1. This is the second year of the competition showcasing quality hay and silage produced in Western Canada. Five classes make up the competition. They are: legume hay (greater than 70 per cent legume); grass-legume hay (less than 70 per cent legume); grass hay; haylage; and, cereal silage. All entries must be from 1990 production on the farm of the exhibitor. Only one entry per exhibitor per class is permitted. First place in each class will be awarded $100. Submit samples to the Alberta Dairy Congress Forage Competition, Box 3776, Leduc, Alberta, T9E 6M7. Call congress manager Iris Yannish at 986-5454 for more information.

ALBERTA SIMMENTALS GO TO CHINA, CHAROLAIS TO SWEDEN

Alberta cattle breeders scored two important international sales in December. China made its first ever commerical purchase of beef cattle from Canada through the efforts of the Canadian Simmental Association and Alberta

(Cont'd)

Agri-News briefs (cont'd)

ALBERTA SIMMENTALS GO TO CHINA, CHAROLAIS TO SWEDEN (cont'd)
Agriculture. The 45 head of Simmentals--plus 20 Holsteins--from Alberta and Saskatchewan breeders will be used to establish elite herds in the provinces of Heilonjiang and Inner Mongolia. The high quality semen and offspring from these animals will be used to cross with domestic Chinese cattle to improve Chinese beef production. The cross-breeding project is a result of an 1984 agreement between Alberta and sister Chinese province Heilongjiang. For more information, contact Barry Bennett or Carla Neilsen at the Canadian Simmental Association in Calgary at 250-7979. Also in December, 13 purebred polled Charolais were exported to Sweden from Canada for the first time. Two Swedish cattlemen made the purchase from eight purebred herds in Alberta and Saskatchewan. Three factors influences their buy: the polled factor, since there are no polled cattle in Sweden; top weight gains shown by Canadina Charolais performance records; and, the good health of the cattle making export easier. For more information, contact Mark Kihn in Calgary at 295-2292.

ALBERTA SEED GROWERS MEET IN BANFF JAN.29-31

The 62nd annual meeting of the Alberta Branch of the Canadian Seed Growers' Association will held at the Banff Park Lodge January 29 through 31. Besides the annual business meeting, participants will hear more about revisions to the Seeds Act, a plant breeders' rights update and a new varieties report. For more information, contact Bill Witbeck at 782-4641 in Lacombe.

ALBERTA DAIRYMEN MEET FEB. 4-6

The Alberta Dairymen's Association will hold the 83rd provincial dairy convention and /0th annual meeting in Calgary February 4 through 6. Producers and processors will hear speakers discussion the challenges of innovation in their industry. For more information, contact Brian Allen in Airdrie at 948-8529.

AGRI-NEWS

CANADIANA

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1990 average temperatures, precipitation near normal

Alberta's average annual temperature and annual total precipitation in 1990 were very near normal says Alberta Agriculture's weather specialist.

The average annual temperature in 1990, as recorded at 31 weather stations across the province, was 0.1 degree Celsius warmer than the average for 1951 through 1980, says Peter Dzikowski of the conservation and development branch in Edmonton. The weather stations averaged 435.7 millimetres (mm) of precipitation, which is within one mm of the 1951 to 1980 average.

"For Alberta, 1990 was about as close to an 'average' year as you can get," says Dzikowski, "But that just goes to show that averages are made up of extremes."

Many parts of the province had conditions very different from what the provincial averages portray, he says. "For example, the annual total precipitation at Bow Island was 222.5 mm, 70 per cent of its long term average, while Red Deer received more than two and half times that amount. The 577.3 mm was 125 per cent of Red Deer's 1951 to 1980 normal."

Precipitation averaged for the province was within 20 per cent of the long term average seven months in 1990 (See attached graphs). January through April were below normal and September was notably dry, with precipitation amounts about 68 per cent below the long term monthly average. July was the wettest month in 1990, with an average of 77.5 mm of precipitation, 114 per cent of normal. May was also wetter than normal with precipitation about 15 per cent above normal for the month.

On the temperature side, the year began with a mild January, 5.9 degrees above the normal. February was 1.4 degrees below normal followed by a mild March, 4.7 degrees above normal. The next five months had near normal temperatures, all within 1.2 degrees of the long term average. September was warm--2.6 degrees above normal--followed by three months of below normal temperatures.

(Cont'd)

"Although the provincial averages present a simple, overall picture of what happened, a lot of detail that has serious consequences is missing. An example of this is the warm, dry conditions--about 2.6 degrees above the norm--during the month of September. The hot, dry weather was experienced province-wide providing farmers in most parts of Alberta with good harvest conditions.

"Unfortunately, that was the last thing farmers in southeastern Alberta wanted. Dry conditions there diminished crop prospects and reduced range and pasture productivity," says Dzikowski.

May and June's weather was also full of variety, he says. Dust storms in eastern Alberta contrasted with wet conditions and flooding in some parts of the Peace River region and along the Foothills.

During December, precipitation averaged for the province was 24.9 mm, about 11 per cent above the long term average. Temperatures were 3.5 degrees below the normal. High Level and Fort Chipewyan recorded the coldest average monthly temperature of -25.5 degrees, about five degrees below normal. Claresholm and Lethbridge recorded the warmest temperatures in December, an average of -10.2 degrees Celsius, about 4.5 degrees below normal.

For more information about 1990's weather contact Dzikowski in Edmonton at 422-4385.

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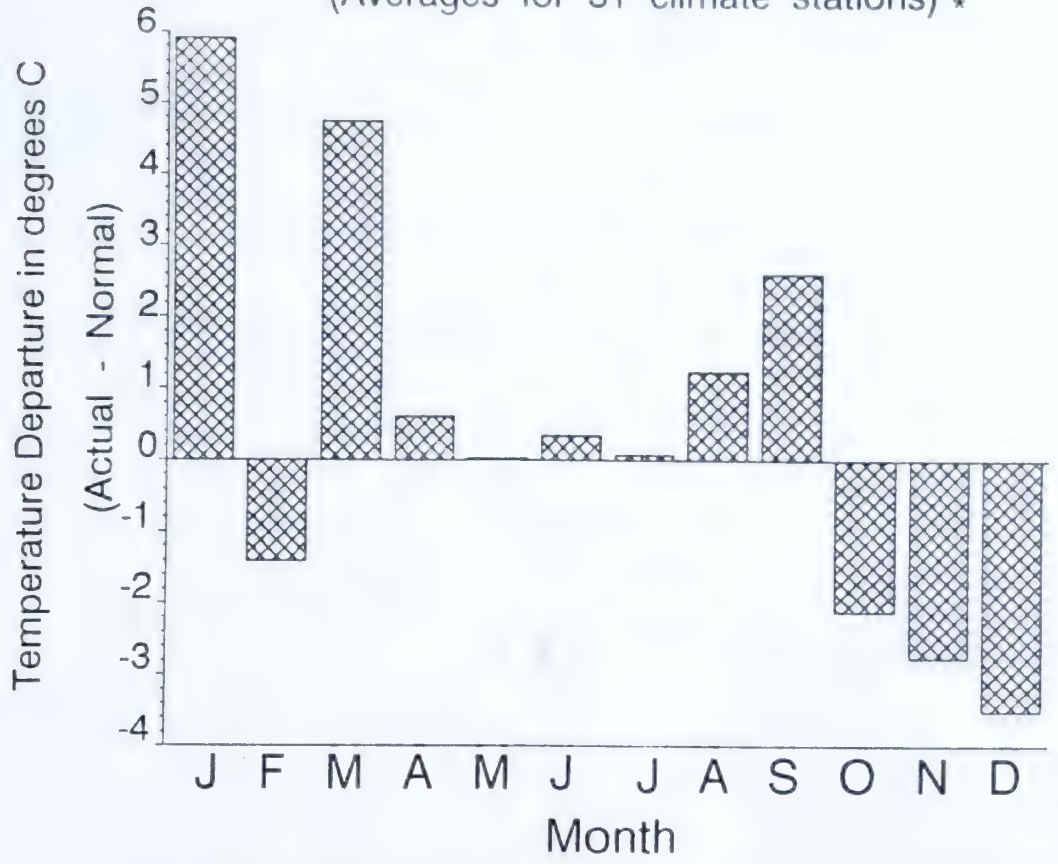
Contact: Peter Dzikowski
422-4385

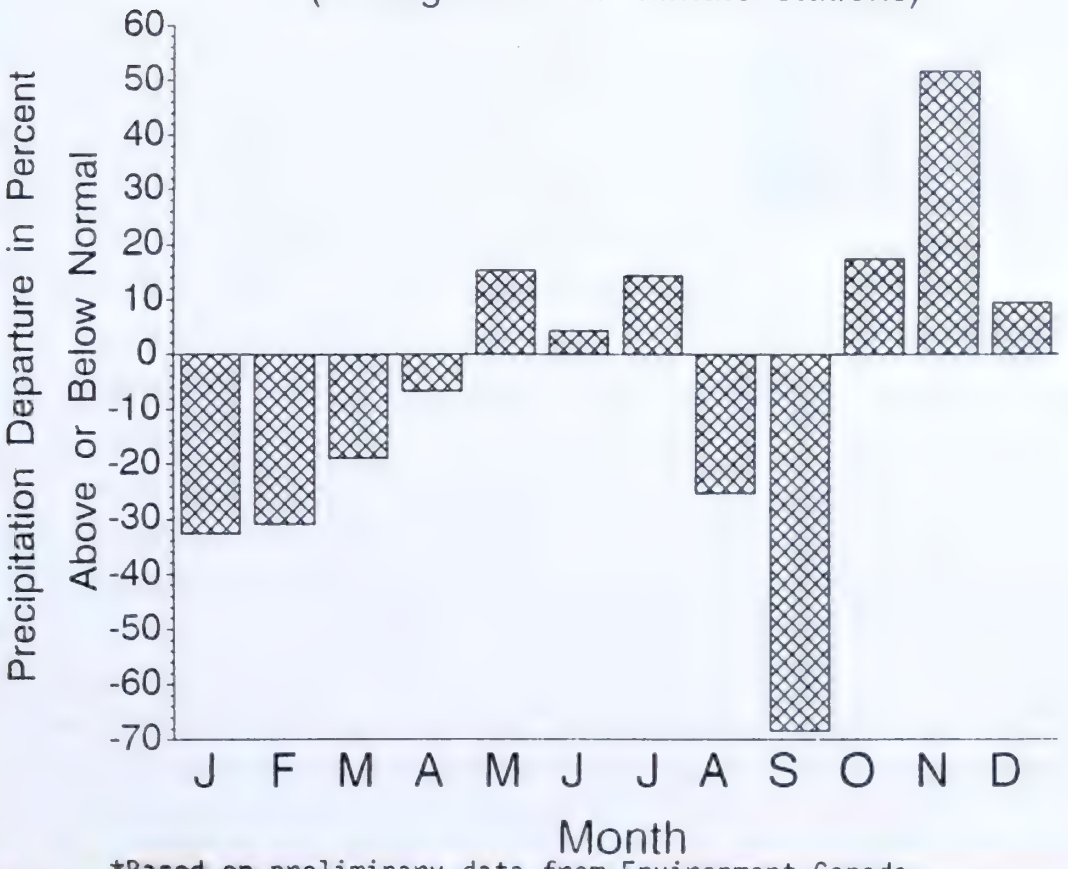
ALBERTA 1990 TEMPERATURE DEPARTURES

(Averages for 31 climate stations) *



ALBERTA 1990 PRECIPITATION DEPARTURES

(Averages for 31 climate stations)



*Based on preliminary data from Environment Canada

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4-H Hall of Fame inducts new member

The late Ken Edgerton of Beaverlodge has been inducted as the 31st member of the Alberta 4-H Hall of Fame.

Edgerton, who passed away in December 1981, was posthumously honored at induction ceremonies held during the recent 49th annual 4-H leaders' conference. Edgerton served as a 4-H leader and also played a role in developing the 4-H program at local, regional and provincial levels through his 30 years of service.

KEN [illegible]ON

Edgerton's involvement with 4-H started when he was a member in his youth. As an adult, he organized the Beaverlodge 4-H Beef Club in 1947. He served as its leader until 1965.

"Ken believed, and actively practised his belief, that 4-H members be placed before their projects," says Ted Youck, head of Alberta Agriculture's 4-H branch. "Through his patient and skilled coaching, his members demonstrated a healthy attitude towards competition."

Edgerton's developmental role in the 4-H movement spanned starting a new project, and organizing and building a strong council system.

He was instrumental in introducing the 4-H light horse project in Alberta, organizing a light horse club in Beaverlodge in 1965 and serving as its leader until 1971.

He helped organize one of the province's first councils, the Grande Prairie District 4-H Council, in 1963. He served as its first president. As well, he worked to establish the Peace Region 4-H Council and the Alberta 4-H Council in 1971. A founding member of the provincial council, he served on it until 1977.

Edgerton's service to 4-H is also commemorated in a memorial scholarship. The scholarship for 4-H members in the Peace Region was first awarded in 1989.

(Cont'd)

"Ken Edgerton's sense of commitment to helping others extended beyond 4-H and was shared with a variety of other community groups and countless individuals," says Youck. Among his other involvements were: a 14-year directorship on the Grande Prairie County Fair; president of the N.F.U. local; Unifarm secretary; director and secretary of the local school board; and, elder in the Beaverlodge United Church.

The Alberta 4-H Hall of Fame is located on the second floor of the J. G. O'Donoghue Building, Alberta Agriculture's headquarters, at 7000-113 Street, Edmonton, Alberta.

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Contact: Henry Wiegman
427-2541

January 14, 1991
For immediate release

Workshops teach machinery electronics troubleshooting

One of the most valuable farm tools of the 1990s is the multimeter says an Alberta Agriculture specialist.

"Most farm machinery today has an electronics system of some type. That means the farmer needs a more sophisticated knowledge of their machinery and how to repair it," says John Chang of the engineering services branch. "The multimeter is an inexpensive tool used to isolate and determine the nature of common problems with machinery electronics."

Farmers can learn how to use an electric multimeter at a one-day workshop being offered around the province by Alberta Agriculture. More than 24 workshops are already scheduled from now through March.

The hands-on workshop debuted last winter. Its objective is to teach farmers how to maintain and troubleshoot electronic systems in their farm machinery. Working with actual machinery hardware, they learn about the components of electronic monitor and controller systems with special emphasis on sensors and connectors.

Machinery complexity often means it's prone to problems because of improper set-up or operation, he says. "After the workshop, farmers should be able to check out their electronic systems before the machinery goes to the field and be able to make simple repairs.

"As well, when things go wrong in the field, the workshop gives them the ability to isolate the problem and speed up the repair process. Both of these abilities save the farmer time and money."

During the workshop, participants practise how to check the complete electronic system, including the sensors, actuators, wiring right up to the console, connectors and power supply.

Farmers interested in this workshop should contact their local Alberta Agriculture district office.

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Contact: John Chang
427-2181

January 14, 1991
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Stubble density measured in research/demonstration project

Increased interest in the soil conservation principle of maintaining surface cover prompted a co-operative research and demonstration project involving four concerned Foremost area farmers and the Alberta Farm Machinery Research Centre.

"The project was set up to demonstrate methods of stubble retention and evaluate stubble measurement techniques," says Barry Redel, a project engineer with the centre. Redel and Graham Gilchrist, Foremost district agriculturist, oversaw the project.

Each farmer used a minimum of four conservation tillage methods on adjacent strips of a demonstration field during the 1990 summerfallow season, but the key part of the project was using two experimental methods to measure the amount of surface trash on the demonstration strips.

"Testing and analyzing these two methods--collection measurement and rope-line-intersection--gave us a better idea of what sort of results the methods generate, and how they can be used to evaluate soil conservation techniques," says Redel.

Collection measurement involves collecting and weighing the amount of stubble in a given area. With rope-line-intersect method, the percentage of ground cover is estimated using a 10-foot rope marked off into 25 divisions. If trash longer than a quarter inch crossed a division mark on one side of the rope, a count was recorded. This was repeated four times to obtain a percentage of cover.

Redel says the collection method provided good numbers to compare the different soil conservation methods by the amount of stubble and trash left behind. "Multiple samples are required to give an average stubble amount. The more samples taken, the more reliable the average. Three or more samples in a given area is recommended.

"This method is very labour intensive," he adds. "You have to cut off standing stubble at the surface, carefully collect every bit of surface trash, and finally use a very accurate scale to measure what's been collected."

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Stubble density measured in research/demonstration project (cont'd)

On the other hand, the rope-line-intersect method gives an approximation of surface cover, but can't be used to give actual values of the amount of trash present, says Redel. "It's most useful for comparisons between field operations. The variations shown by this method were comparable to visual observations of percentage cover on the strips," he says.

"The biggest problem with both of the methods is that they're open to bias. Whoever does the readings can affect the results by where they take the measurements," Redel adds.

Both methods of surface trash estimation were used to collect data in May, July and August.

For more information about the project, contact the Alberta Farm Machinery Research Centre in Lethbridge at 3000 College Drive South, Lethbridge, T1K 1L6 or call 329-1212.

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Contact: Barry Redel
329-1212

January 14, 1991
For immediate release

Quilt competition, workshops in Grande Prairie

Alberta's best quilters will be honored at the fourth annual Canada Packers Alberta Quilt Competition Finals in Grande Prairie February 14 and 15.

The top three placings from among the 20 quilts in the competition will be announced at a final evening banquet held in conjunction with the annual Alberta Association of Agriculture Societies (AAAS) convention. The quilts qualified for the competition by winning at agricultural society fairs across the province in 1990 (See attached list for the preliminary winners).

"There are a lot of new names in the list of finalists," says Eve Cockle, of the AAAS. The AAAS organizes the competition. "Ethel and Milton Suder of Winterburn are making their fourth appearance as finalists and qualified two quilts in the competition. There are two other repeat finalists from 1989-90, Connie Bjorkquist from Jasper and Audrey Wiedrick from Pickardville."

All 20 of the 1990-91 competition finals quilts will be on display at the Prairie Mall in Grande Prairie from the evening of February 14 through all day February 16.

Cockle notes that 1990-91 is the last year Canada Packers will be the competition sponsor. "The company has been bought by a British consortium and this spring is being amalgamated, so Canada Packers will no longer exist, and the new company won't be continuing the competition sponsorship. The AAAS is looking for a new sponsor, but as yet hasn't confirmed one."

Until a new sponsor is found, the competition will continue but there won't be a prize for the first place winner at the local level unless supplied by the local host, she says. The finals competition event will continue, the first place quilt will still be purchased for $900 and will remain in Alberta as part of a heritage collection. Alberta Agriculture will continue as a co-sponsor.

The major continuing activity at the competition finals are quilting workshops says Cockle. The first day is a beginners workshop which will examine choosing fabrics, equipment demonstrations, hands-on quilting and finishing touches.

(Cont'd)

Quilt competition, workshops in Grande Prairie (cont'd)

"Each delegate at the beginners workshop needs to bring two needles, a box of pins and four 12 inch square pieces of material--preferably cotton based," Cockle notes. Mary Anne Smith, a local quilter and owner of a Grande Prairie fabric store, will present the beginners workshop.

The second day features more advanced workshops, one on finishing touches and the second on "the quilted line". "The workshop organizers are very pleased to have Vivian Gregory and Teresa Brunner presenting these workshops," says Cockle. "Both have extensive quilting experience and have a lot to share with delegates."

Information about the competition finals and workshop is available by contacting Cockle in Edmonton at 427-2174.

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Contact: Eve Cockle
427-2174

FINALISTS 1990 CANADA PACKERS ALBERTA QUILT COMPETITION

Host Agricultural Society	Winner
Klondike Days, Edmonton	Ethel and Milton Suder, Winterburn, 962-2570
Fairview	Dorothy Burkholder, Bluesky
Lethbridge	Ruth Daw, Lethbridge, 327-1615
Vermilion	Georgina Enger, Irma, 754-3645
Stettler	Letty Docherty, Stettler, 742-8465
Yellowhead	Connie Bjorkquist, Jasper, 852-5654
Alberta Beach	Elsie Carter, Gunn, 967-5698
Westlock	Audrey Wiedrick, Pickardville, 349-2077
K.A.C.	Beryl Ward, Kirriemuir, 552-2147
Spruce Grove	Ethel and Milton Suder, Winterburn
Raymond	Rina Motcka, Raymond, 752-4257
Crossfield	Eunice Berreth, Biesiker, 947-2029
Grande Prairie	Darlene Webber, Wanham, 694-3923
Battle River	Alice Luiken, Manning, 836-2581
Castor	Donna Fawcett, Consort, 577-3582
Big Country (Oyen)	Doris Code, New Brigdin, 664-2482
Wainwright	Maria Branum, Denwood, 842-3280
Wildwood	Violet Schmidt, Niton, 795-2287
Bonnyville	Vivian Bryant, Bragg Creek, 949-2255
Camrose	Wilhelmina Schierman, Vulcan, 485-2661

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January 14, 1991
For immediate release

Conference looks at broader vision in agriculture

More than ever before, farmers need to take a broad look at where agriculture is going and where they fit in a 1990s world already synomous with rapid changes in politics, market forces and technology says an organizer of the 1991 Managing Agriculture for Profit (MAP'91) conference.

"Creating visions of the future industry and of an individual's farm business are a vital part of business management," says Paul Gervais, of Alberta Agriculture's farm business management branch. "MAP'91 provides a solid look ahead and, at the same time, helps farm participants think about who they are and what they have to do to position themselves and their businesses for tomorrow."

At the March 3 to 6 conference, speakers from across North America combine their expertise to create a management retreat for participants under an umbrella theme of "farm business is family business". "The Kananaskis setting is ideal for participants to relax, to learn and to talk about their plans and vision for their family business," he says.

The conference will focus on management and human relations issues in family-owned and managed farm business. Topics at the unique conference range from communication among family members to dealing with success and management transition.

Gervais adds farm couples are encouraged to attend. "Our registration costs reflect our hope the farm team will come to the conference together. A single registration is $125, and a couple's registration is just $25 more. That's $25 per day per person, an affordable way to look at the future."

Conference brochure and registration forms are available at Alberta Agriculture district offices. Or, for more information, contact Gervais or Trish Pannell at the farm business management branch in Olds at 556-4240, FAX 556-7545 or write Box 2000, Olds, Alberta, T0M 1P0.

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Contact: Paul Gervais
556-4240

Trish Pannell
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January 14, 1991
For immediate release

Agri-News briefs

AAAS CONVENTION IN GRANDE PRAIRIE FEB.15-16

The Alberta Association of Agricultural Societies (AAAS) will hold its annual convention in Grande Prairie February 15 and 16. At workshops participants have an opportunity to talk informally about topics of current and practical interest to agricultural society volunteers. These include plans of action for fairs, organizing major events and facility planning. More formal select-a-session topics include: how the GST applies to agricultural societies, agricultural societies' future effectiveness, using recycling, stress management, agricultural education and awareness, and changes to electoral boundaries. The convention also includes regional meetings and an annual meeting of the provincial association. The final banquet highlights AAAS award winners and the prize winning quilters from the Canada Packers Alberta competition. For more information, contact Eve Cockle in Edmonton at 427-2174.

SCANNING HORIZONS CONFERENCE IN NORTH EAST

Two managing in agriculture conferences for farm couples have been organized for northeastern Alberta. The first "scanning your horizons" conference is February 12 in Wainwright, the second is February 13 in St. Paul. Identical programs feature Red Williams as the keynote speaker discussing the future of agriculture. Participants can attend two topic areas from among: farming with the GST, behaviour styles, not just a "hired hand", getting what you want, operating agreements and investing in your future. The day long conference also features a farm panel discussion on keeping the farm in the family. A $15 registration fee includes lunch. For more information, contact Brenda Nazar in Wainwright at 842-7540 or any Alberta Agriculture district office in the north east region.

PORK CONGRESS ACCEPTING NOMINATIONS FOR ANNUAL AWARDS

The Alberta Pork Congress is currently accepting nominations for two of

(Cont'd)

PORK CONGRESS ACCEPTING NOMINATIONS FOR ANNUAL AWARDS (cont'd)

its annual awards, the progressive pork producer and the pork industry herdsman. Criteria for the producer award include quality and excellence of production (80 per cent) and swine industry and community involvement (20 per cent). Herdsman award nominees must not have ownership in the operation and must have a minimum of three years involvement in the industry. Producers and herdsman can receive the award only once. Pork Congress directors and awards committee members and their employees, and Congress employees are excluded from the competition. Nominations must be received at the Pork Congress office by February 28. Nomination forms are available from Alberta Agriculture district agriculturists, regional swine specialists and the Pork Congress office in Red Deer at 4920-51 Street, T4N 6K8.

SOIL CONSERVATION FOR THE FUTURE MEETING MARCH 7-9

The Saskatchewan Soil Conservation Association (SSCA) and Soil Conservation Canada (SCC) are holding a joint meeting of soil and wildlife habitat conservationists from across Canada in Regina March 7 through 9. The conference features speakers highlighting soil conservation practices, programs and policies. A conservation trade show, a student and teacher educational program and a special workshop on holistic resource management round out the agenda. The conference provides an opportunity for producers, professionals and educators to exchange ideas, view the latest conservation equipment and increase their knowledge of conservation activities across the country. For more information or registration requests, contact the Saskatchewan Soil Conservation Association, Room 132, 3085 Albert Street, Regina, Saskatchewan, S4S 0B1 or call (306)787-0558.

NEW PUBLICATIONS LIST AVAILABLE

Alberta Agriculture's "1991 Publications List" is now available from Alberta Agriculture district offices and the Publications Office (7000-113 Street, T6H 5T6) in Edmonton. Approximately 1200 technical and informational publications for farmers and farm families are listed. Included are over 100 new and revised publications.

AGRI-NEWS

January 21, 1991

For immediate release

CANADIANA

FEB - 5 1991

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Alberta
AGRICULTURE
Print Media Branch

Phone: (403) 427-2121

January 21, 1991
For immediate release

GRIP has go-ahead for 1991-92 crop year

Alberta farmers will be able to use the Gross Revenue Insurance Plan (GRIP) in the 1991-92 crop year say Alberta's agriculture ministers.

The provincial cabinet approved Alberta's participation in the plan, one component of a new federal-provincial safety net program for grain and oilseed producers. Minister Ernie Isley and Associate Minister Shirley McClellan announced approval of the plan with federal minister Don Mazankowski earlier this month in Edmonton.

GRIP gives producers an opportunity to lock in a target revenue for this spring's crop year. In 1991-92 it will operate as two separate components--crop insurance in its present form and a revenue insurance option. Together the components will provide grain and oilseed farmers with effective revenue protection says McClellan.

Participation in GRIP is voluntary. Producers can choose either crop insurance or revenue insurance, or both. The program will be administered by the Alberta Hail and Crop Insurance Corporation.

Program support will be based on a 15-year indexed moving average price (IMAP). Each producer has an individual target revenue found by multiplying 70 per cent of the IMAP by the producer's average yield. For example, the current 15-year IMAP would provide spring wheat insurance at about $4/bu. ($146/tonne). If the producer had an average yield of 30/bu. to the acre, he could insure a total revenue of approximately $120/ac. ($4 X 30 bu.).

If the producer doesn't have a yield history with the Alberta Hail and Crop Insurance Corporation, he can adopt the area average yield or use his own records, if acceptable, to establish an average yield. Exact premiums haven't been finalized and are subject to the final program design.

GRIP premium costs will be reasonable says Isley, because federal and provincial governments have agreed to share the costs with producers. For the revenue insurance component, the federal government will contribute 41 2/3 per cent of its costs, the provincial government 25 per cent and producers 33 1/3 per cent. Crop insurance premium cost sharing arrangements remain the same.

(Cont'd)

Alberta government total costs for GRIP in 1991-92 will be about $49 million. This includes administration costs. Roughly $50 million is budgeted for the crop insurance program.

Isley says the province is reviewing its funding for other support programs in light of continuing budgetary constraints and the need to be consistent with programs offered in other provinces. "Given the very significant benefits accruing to farmers through this revenue insurance plan, I have every confidence that there will be less need for some of our other support programs."

McClellan says the discouraging outlook for grain prices in the year ahead made it crucial that safety net reform be completed and farmers know their options as soon as possible to make spring seeding and other management decisions.

A number of program design details are still being worked on by the federal and provincial governments. Specific details on contract coverage, premiums and other matters will be available to farmers in the near future.

No decision has been made about the companion program, the Net Income Stabilization Account (NISA). Both GRIP and NISA were developed by a federal/provincial/producer committee established as part of the national agri-food policy review.

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Contact: Glenn Gorrell
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Les Lyster
427-7312

GROSS REVENUE INSURANCE PROGRAM (GRIP) BACKGROUNDER

1. For 1991-92, GRIP will be delivered through two programs: existing crop insurance and a separate revenue (top-up) protection plan. For the first year, producers may enroll in either or both programs. GRIP is both yield and revenue protection.
2. As proposed by the Grain and Oilseed Task Force, revenue coverage will be offered as a uniform revenue guarantee at each yield level.
3. For 1991-92 GRIP will be crop specific. A "basket" approach where revenue across all crops would be the basis for revenue support may be offered in future years.
4. A base premium rate on the revenue protection component will be established. In the first five year period, the producer share of the premium rate won't increase by more than two percentage points. Crop

(Cont'd)

GRIP backgrounder (cont'd)

4.(cont'd) insurance premiums will be adjusted as required to maintain actuarial soundness.
5. For 1991-92, at a minimum, all crops currently under WGSA and the named crops under ASA will be included. Crops covered in National Tripartite Stabilization Plans (NTSP) will not be eligible. Other crops covered by crop insurance may be included.
6. Producers enrolling in the revenue plan have the right to opt out. Conditions are: a 3 year advance notice followed by 2 years non-participation before the right to re-enter the program.
7. Payment Formula: Revenue protection plan payment = GRIP revenue less the sum of market revenue plus crop insurance indemnities. Revenue protection payouts for those producers who choose to take only the revenue top-up program will be calculated as if the producer had received crop insurance indemnities where yield falls below crop insurance coverage levels.
8. Individual producer yields will be measured each year for those farmers enrolled in the revenue protection plan.
9. Prices used for purposes of calculating unit price for crop insurance will not exceed the support price.
10. The support price will be based on a 15-year indexed moving average price (IMAP) where possible. Coverage in Western Canada will be based on a 70 percent IMAP. Benefits will be paid when farmer market revenue is below a per acre target revenue.
11. The minimum coverage, which will be established at 70 percent of the target revenue for 1991-92, can be adjusted downwards over a 5 year period if premium costs become excessive.
12. Current crop insurance features such as quality and hail spot-loss, will continue to be available through crop insurance.
13. A producer must enroll all eligible crops in the revenue protection plan but not for crop insurance. Farm-fed grain is included in GRIP.

Cost Sharing:
1. Crop Insurance will remain 50-25-25 percent, producer/federal/provincial and the revenue component will be cost shared 33 1/3 percent producer, 41 2/3 percent federal, and 25 percent provincial.
2. For both programs together, cost sharing will be about 40 percent producer, 35 percent federal and 25 percent provincial.
3. Administration costs for the revenue program will be shared on a 50-50 basis by both levels of government.

Deficits: If, based on total calculated premiums, the amount in the program account is insufficient to issue payments, the federal government will advance 65 percent of the shortfall and the provinces will advance 35 percent.

Review: During its first year, GRIP will deliver similar benefits across the country with some differences in program design and some features not available. Officials will analyze the plan's first year and present the findings to federal and provincial agriculture ministers.

January 21, 1991
For immediate release

Zero-rated means no GST

An expanded list of zero-rated farming inputs has lessened concerns farmers had about paying GST on large parts of their farming costs, but farmers are still learning what does and doesn't have GST attached says an Alberta Agriculture tax specialist.

"The final list of zero-rated inputs is somewhat longer than the preliminary list that was released last spring," says Merle Good, of the farm business management branch in Olds. "This list should help ease the cash flow burden farmers may have experienced if paying the GST had been required when purchasing these goods."

Zero-rated items are ones that can be purchased free of the GST at point of purchase (See attached list of items). For the most part, they are large ticket items such as harvesting equipment and 60 or more horsepower tractors. "Size is a determining factor," says Good. "For example, seeding and tillage equipment usually must be eight feet wide or wider to be zero-rated."

The zero-rated list also includes qualified bulk purchases of fertilizer, livestock feed, seed, pesticides and quota.

"Farmers must remember they can recover the GST paid for farm inputs not on the list," says Good. "The most important things they must do is keep accurate records so they can claim their GST input tax credit."

Input tax credits are claimed when a registered farmer completes a GST return. The individual compares GST paid with any GST collected on taxable sales. If more tax has been paid out than collected in a reporting period, a refund will be made. If more tax is collected on sales than has been paid out, the difference must be remitted to Revenue Canada.

Farming inputs subject to the GST include services such as custom work and trucking, most buildings, fuel, some farm chemical purchases and ancillary equipment such as loaders and dozers.

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Contact: Merle Good
556-4237

Douglas Duff
556-4238

PRESCRIBED LIST OF ZERO-RATED FARM INPUTS

EQUIPMENT

Tractors:
- 60 PTO horsepower or more

Harvesting equipment:
- self-propelled or pull-type combines, swathers and wind-rowers
- headers for combines, forage harvesters, swathers and wind-rowers
- combine or forage harvest pickups
- forage harvesters
- mechanical fruit or vegetable pickers or harvesters when self-propelled or tractor mounted

Tillage equipment:
- mouldboard plows with three or more furrows
- disc plows with three or more furrows
- chisel plows and subsoil chisels, discers, rod weeders, field cultivators, row-crop cultivators, combination discer-cultivators 8 feet or wider
- rototillers and rotovators six feet and wider
- harrows when sold in complete units eight feet or wider
- pulverizers, rotary hoes and roller mulchers eight feet or wider

Seeders and planters:
- airflow seeders
- grain or seed drills eight feet or wider
- farm type row-crop or toolbar seeders or planters designed to seed two or more rows at a time

Haying equipment:
- mower-conditioners, hay balers and cubers; bale throwers, elevators or conveyors; hay rakes; hay tedders; hay conditioners, crushers or crimpers; swath turners and wind-row turners

Grain handling and processing equipment
- grain bins or tanks with a 5,000 bushel capacity or less
- transportable and utility augers
- bin sweepers or cleaners designed for attachment to portable farm grain augers
- farm tractor-powered pneumatic grain conveyors
- farm-type roller mills, hammer mills and other farm-type feed mills
- farm-type feed mixers, grinder mixers, feed grinders, tub-grinders and ensilage mixers
- farm-type grain roasters for use in livestock feed production
- self-propelled feed or ensilage carts

Miscellaneous equipment:
- fully operational milking systems (assembled or unassembled)
- farm-type bulk milk coolers

(Cont'd)

PRESCRIBED LIST OF ZERO-RATED FARM INPUTS (cont'd)

Miscellaneous equipment: (cont'd)

- rock rakes, rock or root wind-rowers; mechanical rock or stone pickers
- self-propelled, tractor mounted or pull-type field sprayers or dusters with a tank capacity of 300 litres (66 gallons) or more
- forage blowers, silage unloaders
- liquid, box, tank or flail manure spreaders
- injection systems or liquid manure spreaders

FERTILIZER

- Fertilizer (including solutions) when sold in bulk quantities of 500 kg or greater

LIVESTOCK FEED

- Complete feeds, supplements, or micro and macro vitamin-mineral pre-mixes labelled in accordance with the Feeds Regulations for farm livestock, fish or poultry when sold in quantities of 20 kg (44 lbs) or greater

- By-products of the food processing industry and plant or animal products ordinarily used as feed ingredients for farm livestock or poultry when sold in bulk quantities of 20 kg (44 lbs) or greater or in bags containing at least 20 kg (44 lbs).

SEEDS

- Seed in its natural state or treated for seeding purposes when sold in quantities greater than that ordinarily offered for sale to consumers.

PESTICIDES

- Pesticides labelled in accordance with the Pest Control Products Regulations as having a purpose that includes agricultural use and a product class designation other than "domestic", when the total cost of all pesticides included on a single invoice is at least $500 (excluding tax).

QUOTA

- Sales of quota between registrants where the quota is authorized by a government agency or marketing board in respect or an agricultural product which is itself zero-rated.

January 21, 1991
For immediate release

Long-term outlook for lambs positive

Firmer and potentially higher prices are two bright spots in the outlook for Alberta lamb producers says an Alberta Agriculture market analyst.

"We're coming out of a very bleak part of the lamb cycle, and the long term outlook for market lambs is much less gloomy," says JoAnn Cmoluch, of the market analysis branch.

At the beginning of 1991, lamb prices were strengthening on lower seasonal volumes in Edmonton. Slaughter lamb prices were up, in a $44 and $54/cwt range, while feeder prices rose to between $56 and $68/cwt. Buyer interest from outside the province kept heavy slaughter lambs trading steady at $51/cwt in Fort Macleod.

Some Alberta producers may find themselves in a profitable situation by the end of 1991, she says. How profitable depends on a number of factors, she adds. Among those factors are the size of American and Canadian lamb inventories, continued low feeding and replacement lamb costs and a good probability of better slaughter lamb prices.

Cmoluch says provisions in the new U.S. farm bill will also make an impact on the lamb market. "The bill places limitations on payments made to producers through the Wool Act. Current low wool and lamb meat prices will see unprofitable producers leave the industry. Over the next year or so that will eventually mean better prices," she says.

On the marketing side, Cmoluch reminds producers the 1991 Easter season starts two weeks earlier than last year. "The highest lamb prices during the year generally straddle this period, so feeding programs should be adjusted accordingly."

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Contact: JoAnn Cmoluch
427-5387

January 21, 1991
For immediate release

Check fire safety in poultry house

Dust and loose electrical connections are two of the major fire hazards in a poultry house says an Alberta Agriculture poultry specialist.

"Fire prevention from these and other causes are all part of good management," says Narine Singh, poultry specialist in the Lethbridge region.

Dust, which ignites readily and promotes rapid flame spread, can be controlled, as can situations when it may be dangerous, he says. "Producers should always use a vacuum cleaner rather than blowing or sweeping combustible dust. All combustible scraps, debris and water material should be put in covered metal containers and stored away from the poultry house.

"Another important consideration is enforcing a no smoking rule inside the poultry house and in any other hazardous areas where flammable and combustible materials are stored," he says.

To prevent a loose connection in or malfunction of an electrical device, Singh says producers should have a routine maintenance schedule. "The routine should include testing the fire alarm, checking fire doors, making sure fire extinguishers are serviced annually and any employees know how to use them, and doing regular inspections throughout the year of wiring and electric motors."

Part of good management is building with flame retardant construction materials, installing fire or smoke detectors with loud alarms, placing water sprinkler systems in strategic areas, building fire walls to retain the fire in a limited area and putting fire extinguishers in strategic locations.

For more information and a tip sheet on fire prevention, contact Singh in Lethbridge at 381-5107 or the poultry branch in Edmonton at 427-5090.

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Contact: Narine Singh
381-5107

January 21, 1991
For immediate release

Associate minister invites 4-H scholarship applications

Associate Agriculture Minister Shirley McClellan is encouraging past and current Alberta 4-H members to apply for 1991 4-H scholarships.

"The Alberta 4-H scholarship program has assisted young Albertans with all sorts of post-secondary pursuits. I invite 4-H members and alumni to once again use this opportunity to help them achieve their educational goals," says McClellan.

Over $51,000 from 80 scholarships is available for the 1991-92 academic year. Individual scholarships range in value from $100 to $1,000.

Scholarships are awarded based on a number of criteria including 4-H and community involvement and academic standing. The scholarships are sponsored by individuals, corporations, government, associations, 4-H councils and from contributions to a number of 4-H memorial scholarships.

Application forms are available from all Alberta rural high schools, all Alberta post-secondary institutions, regional 4-H offices, and Alberta Agriculture district home economists, or by writing to: 4-H Scholarships, 200, J.G. O'Donoghue Building, 7000-113 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T6H 5T6.

As well, 4-H members and non 4-H members taking agriculture, agricultural engineering, home economics or veterinary science are invited to apply for "Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth, the Queen Mother" scholarships. Three $1,500 scholarships will be awarded in 1991. Application forms are available at regional 4-H offices or by writing the 4-H branch in Edmonton.

The application deadline for most of the 4-H scholarships is July 15.

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Contact: Anita Anderson
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January 21, 1991
For immediate release

Sustainable agriculture symposium travels province in February

A definition of sustainable agriculture is still being debated in the agricultural community, and that discussion will be on the road through Alberta next month.

Five symposiums in Grande Prairie, Barrhead, Vermilion, Olds and Vulcan February 11 through 16 will feature a number of theme speakers and local producer panels talking about sustainable agriculture concepts.

"The speakers do have different points of view and a variety of messages," says John Toogood, one of symposium organizers.

"Meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their needs is a now commonly accepted definition of sustainability. For the agricultural community, defining sustainable agriculture hasn't been quite so simple, because some 'environmental' practices may not always translate into sustainable food production," adds Ross Gould, another symposium organizer.

Symposium speakers who will provide the wide range of view points include retired University of Saskatchewan researcher Donald Rennie, Washington state based David Granatstein, McGill's Stuart Hill, soil scientists Fred Bentley and Doug Penney, and University of Alberta's Roy Berg. Their topics cover ecological agriculture, contemporary agriculture evolving into sustainability, environmentally sustainable food and agriculture, the role of chemicals and fertilizers in sustainable agriculture, and sustainable agriculture and a sustainable society. Luncheon speakers will address lifestyle choices, alternatives for the third world and what sustainable agriculture is striving to sustain.

Four local producers at each location will talk about how they incorporate sustainable practices on their farms. "Their participation shows how sustainability is a real part of farming, past, present and future," says Gould.

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"These symposiums aren't restricted to farmers and the agricultural community," adds Toogood. "The general public certainly would find these sessions informative."

Gould agrees, and says any of the symposiums would provide a sound background on the issues. "For example, they would be good for members of the media to gain a thorough understanding of sustainable agriculture and provide a base of knowledge to work from."

Symposium brochures and registration information are available from Alberta Agriculture district agriculturists at the five symposium locations. Locations and dates are: Grande Prairie, February 11; Barrhead, February 12; Vermilion, February 13; Olds, February 15; and, Vulcan, February 16.

The symposiums are organized and sponsored by the Alberta Institute of Agrologists (AIA) and the Alberta chapter of the Soil and Water Conservation Society with support from the Canada/Alberta Soil Conservation Initiative (CASCI).

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Contact: John Toogood
430-7510

Ross Gould
427-5083

January 11, 1991
For immediate release

Alberta food extravaganza part of Canada's "MAP" conference

While Managing Agriculture for Profit (MAP'91 - participants sharpen their management skills, they'll also have their appetite for Alberta Made food whetted.

A special feature of MAP'91 is promotion of Alberta food products at an opening supper buffet, an evening reception and a breakfast buffet says Trish Pannell, one of the conference organizers. "All the featured products will have been grown and produced in Alberta and reflect the increasing diversity of food products produced here."

Products run the range from beverages to meat, including pasta, ice cream, bakery products and a number of other speciality foods. Products from over 30 Alberta companies will be showcased and representatives of every company will be on hand at the March 3 through 6 conference.

"This promotion then, is also a chance for the agri-food industry and agricultural producers to meet and share their ideas on value added processing," Pannell says.

As well, one of the conference speakers will discuss cashing in on value added processing. Fred Wolf, chairman of the food science department at University of Alberta's agriculture and forestry faculty, will outline some of the issues and examine the ramifications of new food processing and preservation technologies in a changing marketplace.

Specialists from across North America will present sessions in finance, economics, law, human relations and general farm management at MAP'91. "All the sessions relate to the conference's purpose: helping the farm couple to better understand the relationships and links between family and business objectives, and to help them establish and strengthen their vision of agriculture in the 1990s," Pannell says.

Conference brochures and registration forms are now available from all Alberta Agriculture district offices, the farm business management branch in Olds and UFA retail farm outlets.

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Contact: Trish Pannell
556-4240

Paul Gervais
556-4240

January 21, 1991
For immediate release

Agri-News briefs

DROP IN WORLD HONEY STOCKS YIELD HIGHER PRICES

Canadian beekeepers are seeing the results of an improved world honey situation in higher honey prices. Locally in Alberta, prices are now about 55 to 60 cents per pound. They had dipped into the 30 cent range. Decreased honey stocks since 1986 is one reason for the change, says Al Dooley, of Alberta Agriculture's market analysis branch. The world's ten biggest suppliers--a group that includes Canada--account for two-thirds of world output. In 1986 they held stocks of over 155,000 tonnes, but year-end stocks for 1990 were just over half of that total at 81,849 tonnes. In particular, American stocks have dropped by more than 50 per cent in the last four years. Dooley says the tightened honey stocks are positive for Canadian prices. He says he expects honey prices to remain steady to marginally higher through the reminder of the 1990-91 crop year. For more information, contact Dooley in Edmonton at 427-5387.

GLOBALIZATION DISCUSSED AT WESTERN FOOD INDUSTRY CONFERENCE

The Western Canadian food industry will discuss the effects of globalization at its 11th annual conference February 10 and 11 in Edmonton. Topics include: globalization as a double-edged sword, maximum value products and impediments to trade, multinational trade, Alberta's role in globalization, processors accessing the global market and the world marketplace and its realities. Speakers include Shirley McClellan, Alberta's associate agriculture minister, and Kerry Hawkins, president of Cargill. Special discount registration is available for agricultural students and organizations with three or more people registering. For conference and registration information, contact the Rural Education and Development Association (REDA) in Edmonton at 451-5959 or FAX 452-5385.

BARLEY GROWERS MEET AT KANANASKIS FEB.20-22

The Western Barley Growers Association (WBGA) will examine opportunities

(Cont'd)

Agri-News briefs (cont'd)

BARLEY GROWERS MEET AT KANANASKIS FEB.20-22 (cont'd)

through change at its 14th annual convention and trade fair February 20 through 22 at the Kananaskis Lodge. A variety of topics are on the conference agenda including maximizing farm profit, a barley price outlook, custom harvesting, opportunities in the grain industry and a transportation panel. The trade fair features the latest in farm inputs, products and technology. The WBGA's new cookbook, **Cooking with Barley**, will be on sale. For registration and other information, contact Anne Schneider at the WBGA office in Calgary at 291-3630 or FAX 291-9841.

LEARN ABOUT RAISING TROUT

Rural Albertans interested in making their farm pond or dugout a multi-use facility might want to take in an evening short course about pond raising rainbow trout. The course is being offered through a number of Alberta Agriculture district offices in north east, north west and Peace regions as well as Lakeland College, Fairview College, Olds College and the University of Alberta's extension services through February, March and April. Bruno Wiskel presents the four-hour course with a slide and equipment demonstration covering rainbow trout aquaculture, landscaping for summer and winter reaction, and managing the pond for a secondary source of income, for irrigation and for stock watering. For more information, contact Wiskel in Colinton at 675-4762

FORAGE COMPETITION DEADLINE EXTENDED TO MARCH 1

The deadline for hay, silage and haylage entries for the Alberta Dairy Congress forage competition has been extended to March 1 from February 1. The five competition classes include legume hay, grass-legume hay, grass hay, haylage and cereal silage. Submit samples to the Alberta Dairy Congress Forage Competition, Box 3776, Leduc, Alberta, T9E 6M7. For more information, call Iris Yannish at 986-5454.

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AGRI-NEWS

CANADIANA

FEB 13 1991

January 28, 1991

For immediate release

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Alberta
AGRICULTURE
Print Media Branch

Phone: (403) 427-2121

January 28, 1991
For immediate release

Ag ambassadors recruited in southern Alberta

Schools across southern Alberta are getting telephone calls and visits to recruit a teacher from each school to join a fledgling network of agricultural ambassadors.

"This is the first phase in establishing agricultural ambassadors in every school in the province," says Betty Gabert, provincial co-ordinator of Agriculture in the Classroom program. "We've targeted southern Alberta, building on the awareness and success of the first time agricultural institute for teachers in Lethbridge last summer and the agriculture ambassador school fair in Medicine Hat in November."

Gabert is making the initial contact with 200 schools in an area approximately south of Calgary. Municipal agricultural fieldmen have been invited to do follow-up visits at the schools and encourage local participation she says. As well, Gabert will speak to the ambassador nominees at their teachers' convention sessions.

"Those sessions are an introduction to the ambassador's new duties, giving out resources and talking about responsibilities," she says.

Gabert estimates the time commitment for any ambassador will be around a half hour every month. The ambassador will receive any new resources--from lesson plans to videos--and report on their availability at regular staff meetings. They will have support from agricultural institute graduates in their region and from professional development days as well as the agriculture industry in their local communities.

"Through the program we're pointing out the unique and mostly free educational resources about agriculture in Alberta. That includes lesson plans for all grade levels and most subjects, access to special programs and guest speakers from throughout the industry.

"From these materials and speakers, students will learn about an industry that's integral to their province, from how food is produced for the world to their future role in making decisions that have an impact on the industry," she says.

(Cont'd)

Alberta Wheat Pool, the industry sponsor of the ambassador program, will recognize new ambassadors with a certificate and other small gifts. Letters will be sent to school boards in recognition of their service.

Concentrated regional recruitment efforts will follow the summer agricultural institutes and ambassador fairs. Central Alberta is the next target as the institutes move north through the province. The 1991 institute will be at Olds College in August. The fair location and date haven't been announced.

The 1990 fair was in Medicine Hat. Despite a snowstorm, Gabert says the fair was very successful attracting 350 people to the awards luncheon and more than 500 people to look through the fair entries from around the province.

Close to 300 entries in all grade levels were received. Cash prizes were awarded for the first three placings in each competition. As well, four high point winners were chosen to receive family weekends in Calgary sponsored by the Alberta Wheat Pool.

The winners were: Robert Ellis, grade two, of Brooks Primary School; Deanna Fossen, grade 5, of St. Patrick Elementary in Taber; Tyler Viravec, grade seven, Ridge Valley School in Crooked Creek; and, Chris Simpson, grade 11, Rimbey Jr. Sr. High.

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Contact: Betty Gabert
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January 28, 1991
For immediate release

Farmer role in consumer food safety education

Education and information about the safety of Canada's food supply could balance out misconceptions and bring Canadian consumers from the edge of hysteria to have more confidence in their food.

And farmers have a role in helping consumers understand how their food is produced and how safe it is, says Ross Harvey, western representative of the Crop Protection Institute of Canada.

Recent surveys and polls have concluded a vast majority of Canadians are concerned about farm chemicals, he says. Seven out of 10, for example, believe farmers use too many chemicals. At the same time, however, the Consumer Associaton of Canada has said education and information are key to consumers having more confidence.

Harvey told the more than 350 delegates at a recent provincial soil conservation workshop farmers are a critical part of informing the public. "In the long run, the user of the technology is the best, most credible source of information on the use of the technology and why you use it," he told his audience.

The communication challenge in bridging the gap between frustration and knowledge is large because the rural farming population is only three per cent of the nation's total. Harvey says meeting the challenge can be accomplished in three ways. As individuals, farm people can speak out, write letters and challenge the misconceptions of their urban cousins. Farm organizations can work on a community level through service clubs and schools. And finally, farm organizations can work co-operatively with each other on broad educational and informational programs.

Harvey lists three main messages that need to be communicated to the public in general, and the media and critics of farm chemical use in particular.

To start, three-quarters of Canadians don't know how closely the chemical industry is regulated and need to be told that a regulatory system exists, he says.

(Cont'd)

The second message is that while chemicals have a degree of risk, "the risk is modest and can be managed" and, the benefits from weed control to conserving soil outweigh the disadvantages. "Science is incapable of provising absolute safety of anything," he says, but adds science can give a good idea of any risks.

Finally, the public needs to know farm chemicals are part of sustaining our long-term ability to produce food. "The big picture of the benefit story is we need the technology to feed ourselves," he says. He adds some experts estimate without use of farm chemicals, food prices would rise between 40 and 70 per cent.

Along with better communication, farmers and the industry, particular the farm chemical manufacturers, have to address regulatory and field-use issues that will improve the technology as well as shore up public confidence, he says. These include supporting a strong regulatory system, using technology as carefully as possible, minimizing use of the products and encouraging research into other sorts of pest control.

Consumer concerns about food safety and pesticide use are directly linked with broad environmental concerns. Canadians have listed the environment as a priority, even when stacked against the major economic and political issues of 1990, he says. Environment's high profile is good, he says but its issues must be kept in perspective. Discussion of risks must also include the value of benefits. In particular that applies to the conservation farmer.

Conservation farmers find themselves in an awkward position with environmentalists, Harvey says. Applauded on one hand for their conservation goals and for "farming that leaves top soil in the field and not in the ditch" saving fuel in the process, the conservation farmer is blasted for acheiving those objectives by substituting chemicals for tillage to control weeds.

"I suppose you probably share some of my frustration when it comes to soil conservation," he told his audience. "Because here we have a good environmental practice that itself is challenged because it uses a scientific technology in the form of herbicides to make it work."

AGRI-NEWS Alberta Agriculture, Print Media Branch

January 28, 1991
For immediate release

Province signs agreement for Alberta Terminals Ltd. sale

The Alberta goverment has signed an agreement to sell Alberta Terminals Ltd. (ATL) to Cargill Limited.

Agriculture minister Ernie Isley recently announced the sale. Ownership transfer of ATL to Cargill Limited is expected about February 8, 1991.

Currently wholly owned by the Province of Alberta, ATL is a grain handling company operating inland terminal facilities at Lethbridge, Calgary, and Edmonton plus a trackside loading facility at High Level. Alberta Terminals Canola Crushers Ltd., a subsidiary of ATL, isn't part of the sale, and will remain under provincial ownership and control.

"The selection of Cargill Limited as the purchaser came about as the result of a comprehensive bid process conducted by the Province," Isley said in his announcement. "Cargill's proposal for future operations of Alberta Terminals Ltd. best met the Province's goal that the facilities be used to increase efficiency in the export grain handling and transportation system.

"In addition, Cargill Limited's bid was the highest one offered to the Province. Their bid was for $6 million cash, and the Province will retain ATL's long term securities and working capital on closing of the sale. An important feature of this sale is that Cargill Limited has the financial resources to ensure future stability for ATL and its employees, most of whom will be retained under the new ownership."

As well as improvements in grain handling and transportation efficiency, the Government of Alberta expects the sale of ATL to Cargill Limited will result in increased competition among major grain companies within the Canadian Wheat Board designated area. Further, Cargill Limited will provide small grain dealers with access to ATL facilities on a public warehouse basis until 1996. During that period, small grain dealers will have the opportunity to develop longer term working agreements with the new ownership of ATL.

(Cont'd)

"I wish to thank all ATL staff for their efforts in running the facilities during the transition period," Isley said in his announcement conclusion. "I would also like to advise customers that ATL will remain open for business as usual, with the exception of a weighover to begin January 28. During the weighover, which is expected to take approximately one week, the elevators will not receive grain deliveries."

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January 28, 1991
For immediate release

Cattle abortion causes can be diagnosed

While cattle producers are anticipating--and some herds have started--calving, this time of year can also see pregnancies end in abortion says an Alberta Agriculture veterinarian.

"A producer should begin to be concerned if more than two per cent of the herd aborts," says Cornelia Kreplin, of the veterinary pathology laboratory in Edmonton. "Control of an abortion storm or prevention of abortions in the future requires an accurate diagnosis of the cause. Fetus and placenta can be sent to Alberta Agriculture labs for post mortem examination. Then, with those results, in consultation with your veterinarian you can plan the best course of action."

Alberta Agriculture offers a diagnostic service for aborted fetuses at its laboratories in Edmonton, Fairview, Airdrie and Lethbridge.

Abortion causes fall into three general categories--genetic abnormalities, environmental factors and infectious diseases. The variety of causes plus the conditions of material submitted to a lab all play a role in a successful diagnosis of what caused the abortion. "For those reasons, the diagnostic rate for aborted fetuses submitted to the lab is generally about 50 per cent," she says. "Another factor is that not all causes of abortion make a detectable change in the fetus or afterbirth. Time delays and possible decomposition of tissue also hamper our ability to make a diagnosis.

"Despite those limitations, most infectious diseases do leave telltale signs in either the calf or placenta. Determining whether or not the cause of an abortion was an infectious disease certainly makes a post mortem worthwhile."

Kreplin stresses changes in the placenta are at least as common as changes in the fetus, so it's important producers submit both fetus and placenta. If the placenta isn't available, perhaps eaten by covotes, then a veterinarian can take a small piece of the uterus from an internal examination. This tissue, called caruncle, is a useful substitute for placenta.

(Cont'd)

Getting the sample to a lab can be a problem. "The fresher the tissues are, the better chance the lab has of reaching a diagnosis. If the samples can't be sent to the lab the same day they are collected, it's advisable to freeze them before they are transported," she says. Veterinarians do have information about shipping samples if the lab is a considerable distance from the farm, she adds.

Kreplin says genetic abnormalities are of greatest concern to purebred producers. Fetuses often are obviously deformed and abortion of these usually occurs in the first third of pregnancy. The number of observed abortions varies with the pattern of inheritance of the defect, she says.

"Other more common causes of abortion should be eliminated before suspecting a genetic cause. However, because new genetic defects are being discovered every year, a potential genetic abnormality should be tested and the producer should consult with our theriogenology section," she says.

Nutrition is the most important environmental factor affecting pregnancy. In other words, what the pregnant cow is or isn't eating can also cause an abortion. Deficiencies in protein, energy or a specific micronutrient or vitamin may result in abortion in one or more cows in a herd. Feed toxicity, she adds, isn't as common factor in abortion as feed deficiencies or imbalances.

An infectious disease could have the most widespread effect in a pregnant herd. Infection from bacteria, viruses, fungi or parasites can result in abortion in one animal or up to 80 per cent of the herd. "The rate of abortion depends on how infectious the disease is and the resistance of the individual cow," she says.

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Contact: Dr. Cornelia Kreplin
422-1889

January 28, 1991
For immediate release

Watch for stress when purchasing young calves

Stress is a fact of life for young, dairy calves sold through livestock markets, so farmers buying those calves need to take care says an Alberta Agriculture epidemiologist.

"One of the common stresses is colostrum deprivation. We found that out in a 1988 study," says Bill Stone, of the department's animal health division. "As well, most calves suffer from digestive upsets usually triggered by a change of diet, often from whole milk to a poor quality milk replacer."

As well as the dietary changes, starvation, fatigue and exposure to temperature extremes may weaken calves transported long distances. "Those conditions weaken a calf's immune system, and it's likely to catch any disease it comes in contact with," he says.

Stone notes veterinarians at Alberta livestock markets don't allow calves showing signs of stress or disease to be sold. The veterinary inspectors also are responsible for enforcing the Animal Protection Act when there is evidence of neglect.

"Unfortunately, there's no way to determine by visual inspection if a calf is colostrum deprived or incubating a disease. Week and two week old calves are still extremely vulnerable to disease and digestive disorders and many develop a disease after they go though an auction sale," he says.

A particular disease danger to weakened calves is salmonellosis. In 1990 it was diagnosed at 13 premises in Alberta. In 10 of the cases, calves had been purchased at local auction markets and, many of the calves had been born in British Columbia. British Columbia was also the source in two of the other three cases. One involved older animals added to a herd and the other, young calves. The remaining case involved adult animals added to a herd, but their source wasn't known.

Stone says the stress of passing through an auction market added to the stress of long distance transportation is a serious predisposing factor in salmonellosis cases.

(Cont'd)

Watch for stress when purchasing young calves (cont'd)

Baby calves coming from British Columbia to Alberta undergo a 15 to 20 hour ride, usually without receiving nourishment en route. Inclement weather and mechanical failure may extend this to 30 hours. "Consequently in these cases, calves are highly stressed--starved, dehydrated, fatigued--and are extremely susceptible to digestive upsets, salmonellosis and other calf diseases," says Stone.

Potential problems can be avoided by purchasing older calves he says. "Ideally, you should buy four week old calves. By then, they can digest non-milk formula replacers. They've also had some time to become immune to disease producing organisms." He adds most dairy farmers don't want to keep surplus calves longer than seven to ten days.

"If you do buy very young calves, do what you can to buy healthy ones," he advises. "Find out the health status of the herd of origin. That's easy if calves are purchased directly from a local dairy herd. You can assure yourself about management conditions and whether the calves have had adequate colostrum," he says.

If calves are purchased through a livestock market, Stone says to chose local calves rather than ones brought in from long distances. And, if the farm buyer is transporting the calves over a great distance, he should haul them himself.

"Even when a producer hauls calves himself, he should be aware fatigue, lack of food, delays due to breakdowns or severe weather conditions will add to the stress on calves," he adds.

Stone stresses long haul or stressed calves require extraordinary care and superior feed, water and housing. "This kind of care is essential. Only milk replacers containing 100 per cent milk protein should be fed to these calves.

"Our 1988 survey points out why this special care is necessary. Calves from B.C. were nearly two and half times more likely to die within 30 days after sale than their Alberta counterparts. The most common post mortem findings in 28 calves were pneumonia, diarrhea and malnutrition." Stone says.

(Cont'd)

Watch for stress when purchasing young calves (cont'd)

Stone also has a caution for producers who may come in contact with salmonellosis in calves. "Salmonellosis is also a risk to humans, so farmers should pay particularly attention to personal hygiene after handling calves. Thorough hand washing, especially before eating any food, is particularly important." He also suggests changing coveralls or outer clothing and using disinfectant on footwear.

Salmonellosis in humans commonly causes diarrhea, vomiting, abdominal cramps and loss of appetite. Higher temperatures are a frequent symptom and sometimes headaches occur. Children and elderly people are particularly susceptible to salmonellosis. So are people whose immune systems have been compromised by radiation treatment or other diseases.

-30-

Contact: Dr. Bill Stone
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Dr. Ray Fenton
422-4844

January 28, 1991
For immediate release

Remote sensing conference shows agricultural applications

Agriculture will link up with space technology at a Camrose conference March 10 through 12.

"Current and potential uses of space age technologies in agriculture, such as remote sensing will be discussed and demonstrated at the conference," says Leon Marciak, of Alberta Agriculture's conservation and development branch. Marciak has provided technical support to the conference's organizing committee.

International aerospace companies and organizations will be represented at the trade show element of the conference. Among the participants are: NASA and EOSAT from the U.S.; Spot Image from France; and, the Canada Centre for Remote Sensing (CCRS) and RADARSAT International, a Canadian satellite distribution company.

As well, technical and educational sessions will be offered to farmers, agrologists and area junior and senior high school students.

Marciak says the sessions for farmers are geared to bridging the information gap between researchers and on-farm applications. In particular, sessions will focus on the diverse potentials of remote sensing.

"Satellite remote sensing can help a farmer map fields to learn about things such as crop stress and soil type. Remote sensing can also be used in automated feeding systems and other farm operations," he says.

Speakers will focus on on-farm applications. For example, Oregon farmer Frank Lamb will discuss how he uses remote sensing to monitor irrigation and Mike Pewarchuk of Carrington Fertilizers will talk about using infrared sensing to determine fertilizer requirements.

As well, broader and more detailed sessions are available to agrologists, researchers and technicians. Among the topics in this stream of the conference are international developments, private sector distribution of satellite imagery and personal computer remote sensing software.

(Cont'd)

Remote sensing conference shows agricultural applications (cont'd)

Educational programs for over 1,100 Camrose area students will run through the three day conference. They will learn about research and applications of space technology on environment and agriculture.

The conference was organized in response to a travelling "Agriculture Links up with Space" touring exhibit that was at a number of major agricultural fairs in Alberta last year. Gordon Porteous, the Camrose Regional Exhibition general manager says interest in that display plus the organization's commitment to providing technology transfer to the agri-food industry spurred organization of this first conference. He adds the conference will be annual with updates on the technology.

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Contact: Leon Marciak
422-4385

Gordon Porteous
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January 28, 1991
For immediate release

Agri-News briefs

POULTRY INDUSTRY CONFERENCE IN RED DEER MARCH 4-6

Alberta's poultry producers will discuss "toward a more responsible industry" at the 40th annual provincial poultry industry conference in Red Deer March 4 through 6. Industry organizations will hold annual meetings through the first two days of the conference. This includes the Alberta Poultry Hatchery Association, the Alberta Turkey Growers Marketing Board, the Alberta Egg and Fowl Marketing Board, the Alberta Chicken Producers Marketing Board and the Alberta Hatching Egg Board. Conference information sessions include presentations on the federal poultry task force, food safety issues related to the poultry industry and progress in the national salmonella program. For registration and other information, contact Gerry Patsula at 427-1379.

SAFE PESTICIDE APPLICATION VIDEO AVAILABLE FOR LOAN

It's the applicator's job to make sure the pesticide is used properly. A 10 minute video, "Basic Safety for Pesticide Applicators" (VT 361-5), now available for loan through Alberta Agriculture's Film Library, provides information about basic pesticide use, including protective clothing and equipment, understanding and using labels and the importance of personal hygiene. The video also includes a 16-page trainer's handbook. For loan information, write the Film Library at 7000-113 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T6H 5T6.

SOFT WHEAT COMMISSION MEETS IN LETHBRIDGE FEB.22

The Alberta Soft Wheat Producers Commission will meet at the Lethbridge Lodge February 22 for its annual convention. While convention delegates were chosen at a series of producer meetings through January, the convention is open to all producers. For more information, call 833-3749 or 345-4963.

(Cont'd)

Agri-News briefs (cont'd)

SOIL CONSERVATION AWARDS PRESENTED

This year's provincial soil conservation award winners come from different ends of the province. The Ron Svanes family of Carmangay were honored as the Conservation Farm Family by the Alberta Conservation Tillage Society (ACTS) and the Western Producer. A Peace region group, the Nampa Conservation Tillage Group, won in the conservation organization category. The recipients received their awards from Shirley McClellan, associate agriculture minister, Jack Braidek, of the Western Producer, and Wayne Arrison, ACTS president. The awards were presented in Edmonton at a provincial soil conservation workshop and ACTS annual meeting. The workshop attracted more than 350 delegates from the across the province to discuss the theme of "making soil conservation pay". For more information, contact Peter Gamache at the conservation and development branch in Edmonton at 422-4385 or Russ Evans at 936-5306.

VIDEO SHOWS FEEDING YOUNG HORSES

Proper feeding is extremely important through a young horse's first year. Well-regulated growth ensures the goal will reach its full potential both in size and athletic ability. In an 11-minute Alberta Agriculture video, "Feeding the Young Horse" (VT 465-50), specialist Bob Coleman looks at choosing a feed supplement, preventing over consumption and weaning among other topics. He explains measures to take to avoid growth disorders such as epiphysitis. The production also stresses the relationship between exercise and well-managed diet. For loan information, write the Alberta Agriculture Film Library at 7000-113 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T6H 5T6.

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Coming agricultural events

1. Do you know of any provincial (Alberta), national or international agricultural meetings, conferences or conventions coming in **March, April, May or later in 1991**? Please state the name of the event.

2. What are the dates?

3. Where is the event being held? Include city or town; hotel and convention centre if known.

4. Please give the name, city or town, and phone number of a contact person for each event listed.

5. This form has been completed by (organization):

Please return this form by February 22, 1991 to:

Agri-News Editor
Information Services Division
J.G. O'Donoghue Building
7000 - 113 Street
Edmonton, Alberta
T6H 5T6

(**Coming agricultural events** is published four times a year in Agri-News. The next edition will be printed March 4, 1991)

AGRI-NEWS

CANADIANA

FEB 19 1991

February 4, 1991

For immediate release

This Week

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Phone: (403) 427-2121

February 4, 1991
For immediate release

McClellan announces crop insurance premium refund

Alberta farmers will soon be receiving their share of $4.2 million in refunds from the province's hail insurance program says associate agriculture minister Shirley McClellan.

The Alberta Hail and Crop Insurance Corporation's board of directors authorized the early payment of a refund on premiums paid to the hail insurance plan in 1990. The refund is the result of a low incidence of hail damage to crops in 1990.

"In previous years, any refund payments possible have been delivered early in June, around the time farmers are thinking about insurance for their current crops. This year's early refund payment has been authorized so that we could provide some help with the cash-flow problems many farmers are facing this year," says McClellan.

Farmers who insured their crops against hail losses and who didn't make a claim, will receive a refund of 35 per cent of their premium. Farmers who did make a hail insurance program claim in 1990 will receive a refund of 20 per cent of their premium. More than 7,450 farmers participated in the hail insurance program last year.

Premium refund cheques will be mailed directly to farmers whose accounts with the Alberta Hail and Crop Insurance Corporation are paid in full. In cases where premium accounts remain outstanding, the refund will be applied to the account, saving the farmers unnecessary interest costs. Any farmers who still have accounts outstanding following this refund are urged to settle them as soon as possible, so their participation in the 1991 insurance program won't be affected.

In additional to the hail insurance program, the Alberta Hail and Crop Insurance Corporation provides all-risk and forage insurance programs offering farmers protection against weather-related production losses.

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February 4, 1991
For immediate release

Livestock best recyclers on earth

The '90s have provided a new definition of the three "R's", from reading, 'riting and 'rithmetic to reduce, reuse and recycle, and Canada's meat industry says it deserves passing grades in each of those new "subjects".

That's one of the messages the Canadian meat industry has for the nation during February's national meat month.

Livestock are the best recyclers on earth says Richard Johnson, head of the Alberta Environmental Centre's soils branch. "Livestock are the most innovative recycling mechanisms that we've ever come up with. They convert vegetable matter, indigestible by humans, into a high quality protein food. Then the waste, mostly as bedding and manures, goes back into the soil to nourish it."

Livestock also provide a solution to the critical environmental problem of top soil loss he says. Perennial forage crops grown to feed livestock as pasture or feed increase soil nutrients and water retention maintaining a rich top soil.

When it comes to "reuse", livestock production is second to none. Livestock derive nutrients from waste. Less than half of food crops are edible by humans. The leaves, stem and chaff of crops, along with by-products from food processing such as flour, malt and sugar-beet operations, are fed to livestock.

Livestock production is a model of waste management because very little of the animal is wasted. Every part of the animal is reused. "We're all familiar with wool and leather products," says Gail Royle of Canada Packers. "But the number and diversity of everyday items which use animal by-products would surprise most people."

Edible oils are used to make shortening and frying oils. Tallow from rendered fat provides the cosmetic industry with glycerine for lipstick, face and hand creams, soaps, shampoos and toothpaste. The inedible fats are also used in detergents, liquid soaps, fabric softeners, candles, tires, adhesives, crayons, chalk, explosives, inks and matches.

(Cont'd)

Livestock best recyclers on earth (cont'd)

Gelatin from bones and hog hides are an important ingredient in many foods including marshmallows, ice creams and gelatin products. It's also used in animal feeds, dog chews and producing photographic film.

Livestock are also the source of hundreds of life-saving and life-improving drugs. "Certainly insulin is one of the more high profile drugs derived from livestock," say Jan Eno, director of research, education and services for the Canadian Diabetes Association. Eno says one-third of Canada's 500,000 diagnosed diabetics take insulin.

"Prior to the 1980s, people with diabetes relied totally on insulin supplies extracted from beef and pork pancreases," she says. Today's improved technology has developed a method producing insulin more closely resembling that of humans. This newer "human pattern insulin" accounts for about half of the insulin market. The remaining half is animal insulin.

Other drugs made from livestock extractions are used in cancer research, allergy treatments, anemia, respiratory diseases, thyroid irregularities and control of blood coagulation during operations.

Reduce has been the watchword of the meat industry for more than a decade, most noticeable in the reduction of fat says Kathy Keeler of the Beef Information Centre in Calgary. Beef today is 50 per cent leaner than it was 10 years ago. Recent nutrient tables released from Health and Welfare Canada show pork as 23 per cent leaner. This lean trend reduces the amount of fat humans eat and the amount scraped into the garbage.

Changes at the packer and retail levels have considerably reduced "plate waste". Twenty years ago very few boneless cuts were found at the retail counter. Today, 75 per cent of retail meats have had the bone removed and reused for animal feeds. The fat trim has been reduced from more than one-half inch to one-eighth inch in most chain stores. Much of the internal seam fat is also removed. All this translates into less household garbage.

Canadian Meat Month is sponsored by the Beef Information Centre, the Canadian Pork Council, the Canadian Sheep Federation and the Canadian Meat Council.

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Contact: Richard Johnson
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February 4, 1991
For immediate release

Special area puts permanent cover in conservation plan

Highly erodible lands should be returned to permanent cover, but lands like these in the special areas of eastern Alberta present a lot of challenges.

"Establishing permanent forage on marginal or severely eroded soils is difficult at the best of times because of poor soil conditions, but the difficulty in the special areas is increased because of continuing cycles of drought," says Vasile Klaassen, south central regional soil conservation co-ordinator. Add in grasshoppers, heat, weeds, wind and problem soils and the challenge is even greater she says.

But farmers in the special areas are getting help. One source is the federal Permanent Cover Program, a component of the Canada-Alberta Soil Conservation Initiative (CASCI) administered by the Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Administration (PFRA). The program provides Alberta producers with a financial incentive to seed their marginal land back to forages. In return, the producer has the option of leaving the land in forage over the long term, says Art Howell, regional PFRA soil conservationist based in Hanna.

More specifically, Special Area No. 2 has made the challenge part of its municipal conservation plan. It's produced a brochure on forage establishment in the municipality.

The brochure details the four "P's"--planning, preparation, planting and patience--on the path to successful forages says Lorne Cole, range improvement supervisor with the Special Areas Board in Hanna. The tips cover year ahead planning, using good quality seed, seeding techniques, weed control and waiting to graze until the stand is well established.

As well, the area's agricultural service board is demonstrating proper forage establishment techniques. Grass seeding equipment is also made available to producers through the agricultural fieldman. Some of this equipment was funded through the Equipment Support Program, another PFRA administered component of CASCI.

(Cont'd)

The Chinook Applied Research Association has been involved in forage trials throughout the special areas and is another source of local information for producers.

Klaassen says one of the best sources of information is producers who have established successful cover forages. "Most will be willing to share their secrets or the pitfalls they've encountered."

Clayton Curry of Sunnynook is one producer who has learned about the challenges and difficulties. "In the good years you can make a few mistakes and still get a good forage stand. In these dry years you do one thing wrong and you're sunk.

"One time we grazed a couple of fields in November of the establishment year. The second year these fields were very poor while our ungrazed fields were much better."

Carl Beasley of Wardlow agrees. "You have to protect that seedling grass from competition. After the second year it can take care of itself."

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February 4, 1991
For immediate release

Calling on teachers for second agricultural institute

Thirty Alberta teachers have an opportunity to attend an agricultural literacy course its first graduates called outstanding.

The Summer Agricultural Education Institute is a full credit, fourth year level university course that introduces its students to the diversity of Alberta's agriculture industry. In 1991 it will be offered at Olds College July 29 through August 9.

"This unique 12-day course is a real eye-opener and valuable experience for teachers," says Betty Gabert, co-ordinator of Alberta Agriculture's Agriculture in the Classroom program. "Through the institute we're bridging an information gap in today's more urban Alberta. Unfortunately, not enough people are aware agriculture is Alberta's largest industry and biggest employer.

"While the institute is all about agricultural awareness, it offers teachers a variety of concrete things to take back to their classrooms, whatever subject or grade they teach."

The institute is open to practising Alberta teachers of all grade levels and fourth year education students. Full scholarships are provided by the United Farmers of Alberta and the provincial advanced education department.

Institute participants receive 10 days of instruction including first-hand guided tours of the industry from production and research through processing and marketing. Part of the institute is a two-day stay with a host farm family. Participants take away valuable instructional resource material and contacts with industry people for potential school visits and tours.

Outside of the lessons in agriculture, the institute is an opportunity for professional development adds Gabert. "We saw last year the professional growth participants experienced was as diverse as the industry they studied."

For information about the 1991 institute, contact the Agriculture in the Classroom program at 7000-113 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T6H 5T6, 427-2403.

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Contact: Betty Gabert
427-2403

February 4, 1991
For immediate release

Memorial scholarships special way to remember

Through his 40 years of life John Dixon Shield was known for always extending a helping hand in his community.

Today, nearly two years after his death, Dixon Shield still plays a part in community building through a 4-H memorial scholarship in his name.

He was a community doer, explains his wife Audrey. A man who not only was involved in a number of community organizations, but the kind of man who was out first after a blizzard using his tractor to plow out neighbours.

Starting the memorial scholarship was her idea she says, giving friends and neighbours a way to show how they'd appreciated her husband. "It was repaying all the kindness he'd done," she says. "All of his friends felt better giving, since Dixon couldn't be here to do his own good."

Using the Alberta 4-H Foundation's memorial scholarship fund program was a natural for the Shield family. Shield was recognized as the province's top 4-Her, receiving the Premier's Award in 1968. He was also regional 4-H specialist in Vermilion in the mid 1970s, before returning to Barrhead to take over the family dairy farm.

"The foundation's memorial scholarship fund was set up as a special way to remember and honor people like Dixon Shield who were involved in 4-H during their lifetime," says Vicki Berger, secretary-manager at the 4-H Foundation of Alberta's Edmonton office. "Especially, the foundation wanted to be able to honor volunteers who are the backbone of the 4-H movement. They're the people who give generously of their time and effort, who believe in the organization and who aren't looking for any reward but to enrich the lives of others."

The scholarship fund has been built with donations made in memory of former 4-H members, volunteers and friends of 4-H since 1986. Memorial donations under $1,000 are put into the foundation's general scholarship fund. Acknowledgements are sent to the family of the deceased. The fund supplies scholarship monies to past or present 4-H members for post-secondary education.

(Cont'd)

Memorial scholarships special way to remember (cont'd)

Donations over $1,000 may allow establishment of a separate perpetual scholarship. The Shield scholarship is one of three current separate memorial scholarships.

Donors for the separate memorial scholarships set the criteria to best honor the memorial's namesake. For example, the Dixon Shield Memorial scholarship is for a first-year post-secondary student in an agricultural program and preference is given to a student in the Barrhead area.

Audrey Shield says the specific scholarship criteria help to remember Shield as a farmer as well as assist potential farmers with their post-secondary education. She describes her late husband as a true farmer, someone who devoted his energy and creativity to being a farmer. She says she hopes the scholarship will encourage young people to stay in the industry.

Other current memorial scholarships include the Marilyn Sue Lloyd Scholarship for equine studies students and a scholarship offered for the first time at the start of the 1991-92 academic year, the Glen Bodell Memorial Scholarship.

Anyone interested in a memorial donation or setting up a memorial scholarship to honor a friend or relative who was actively involved in 4-H, should contact Berger in Edmonton at 427-2541.

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Contact: Vicki Berger
427-2541

February 4, 1991
For immediate release

New 4-H scholarships offered this year

Four new scholarships are available this fall for current and former Alberta 4-H members through the provincial 4-H scholarship program.

The scholarships, including two memorial ones, range in value from $100 to $300 says Anita Anderson of Alberta Agriculture's 4-H branch.

Open to students from all parts of the province is the Don Matthews Scholarship. A minimum $200 award is based on leadership, community responsibility and communication skills. Central Guaranty Trust in Calgary sponsored the scholarship to recognize the many contributions Don Matthews made to his community.

The Blue Klein Memorial Scholarship is a non-academic award of $250 awarded in memory of Ormie Blue Klein of Delburne who died at age 14 in 1989. It's designated for members from the west central region who are taking a certificate, diploma or degree program in agriculture or a related field.

Preference for the Glen Bodell Memorial Scholarship will be given to a student from the northwest region and in particular to applications from the County of Strathcona. Equal consideration for 4-H achievement and academic marks will be given in awarding the $100 scholarship. The defunct Ardossan 4-H Beef Club sponsored the scholarship which will be administered by the 4-H Foundation of Alberta.

August and Edith Capelle of La Nonne Hereford Farm at Gunn are sponsoring a $300 scholarship for students taking agriculture, veterinary science or home economics. Preference for the A&E Capelle LN Herefords scholarship will be given to students from the counties of Lac Ste. Anne and Barrhead.

Anderson also says some changes have been made to an existing scholarship. The Central Alberta Dairy Pool Scholarship has a new name, the Alpha Milk Company Scholarship. It also has an additional $500 award, so three students each year receive that amount to further their education. The scholarship was originally established in 1979.

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Contact: Anita Anderson
422-4444

February 4, 1991
For immediate release

Carcass competition challenges pork producers

Slower than an Olympic marathon, as heavy as a weight lifter and with the possibility of judges flashing "10s", an annual pork carcass competition also has an extra element more in keeping with professional sport.

"The best of the carcasses will also earn their contributors a cash reward," says Art Lange, of Alberta Agriculture's pork industry branch.

Lange, also chairman of the Alberta Pork Congress swine committee, says the annual congress barrow carcass competition showcases successful pork production. "The producer has a limited time to bring a barrow to market weight, then the carcass is the true measure of his success," he says.

Competition rules are simple. The deadline for entering the competition is February 28. Out of province competitors are welcome. The competition begins when the pigs are weighed and tagged on farms by provincial swine technicians between March 25 and April 5. Pigs must not weigh more than 35 kg (77 lbs.) if tagged between March 25 and 29, and not more than 38 kg (84 lbs.) if tagged between April 1 and 5. Pork producers then have until June 10 to raise the pig to a market weight of 100 kg (220 lbs.) On June 11 the pigs will be butchered and carcasses graded by Agriculture Canada inspectors.

The 10 pigs that score the highest combination of points for carcass quality and growth rate will be brought to the Alberta Pork Congress banquet on June 12 to be auctioned.

"Last year the average selling price for the top eight carcasses was just over $3,000, and the first place carcass went for $3,600. That's where the producer is really rewarded for his participation," says Lange.

The competitor receives the selling price minus a 20 per cent commission charged by the congress. "Compared to current market prices around $100, the producer is certainly well rewarded for taking part," adds Lange.

Entry forms and additional information about the contest are available from the Alberta Pork Congress office in Red Deer at 340-5307 or Lange in Edmonton at 427-5319.

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Contact: Art Lange
427-5319

February 4, 1991
For immediate release

Register now for MAP'91

Traditional agriculture and the nature of the family farm is changing as farmers respond to market pressures, environmental concerns, government policy and global trade policies.

"Farmers who have the foresight and flexibility to look ahead and position themselves for the future will be the ones who survive," says Paul Gervais, of Alberta Agriculture's farm business management branch. "We offer a way to look ahead, the Managing Agriculture for Profit (MAP'91) conference." MAP'91 is March 3 through 6 at the Lodge in Kananaskis.

Conference speakers are specialists in finance, economics, international trade, human relations and general management. One of those specialists is the widely known and highly regarded Red Williams of the University of Saskatchewan.

"The 'down-on-the-farm' impacts of Canada-U.S. trade agreement, GATT and the 1985 U.S. Farm Bill are just now fully reaching the agricultural system. Answers rather than rhetoric are required before the end of the decade on the nature of the 'family farm' and the fate of farming communities," says Williams. "In addition, the way that agriculture will manage the problems with the environment need very early responses."

These concerns will also be voiced by Tim Ball, from the University of Winnipeg. "The use of food as the basis of trade and power emerged in parallel with the GATT in the 1960s. But markets are changing as each nation attempts to be competitive with its agricultural products," says Ball. "The farms and markets of tomorrow will be different because they will be part of a global pattern responding to these pressures for change."

MAP'91 will also focus on how farmers can position themselves for change. "Strategic planning is essential for owner-managed businesses to succeed," says Jim Graham, a faculty of management professor at the University of Calgary. Graham brings an understanding of the farm business to his discussion. He was raised on a family farm near Vulcan still operated by his two brothers.

(Cont'd)

Register now for MAP'91 (cont'd)

"In these times of turbulence and rapid change in agriculture, the farm business manager must review his personal plans and plans for his agricultural operation to ensure that he is in a position to take advantage of whatever opportunities there are and at the same time reduce his exposure to the risks in his industry," Graham says.

As well, the conference will focus on some management and human relations issues in family-owned and managed farm businesses. Keynote speaker Don Jonovic, a consultant, educator and author, will discuss some of the neglected problems of success and succession faced by family farm businesses in management transition.

"Families in business together frequently confuse 'family' with 'business' when, in fact, each should add to the other in distinct and well defined ways," Jonovic says.

Gervais says Jonovic's session draws on his practical wisdom and common sense derived from over 20 years of working with farm families and takes a human perspective meaningful to all family members involved in the farm business.

Other topics at this unique conference range through farm law and family communications to becoming a "successful change agent".

Gervais says farm couples are encouraged to attend. "Our registration fees reflect our hope the farm team will come to the conference together. A single registration is $125 and a couple's registration is just $25 more. At $25 per day, per person, it's an affordable way to look at the future."

Conference brochures and registration forms are available at Alberta Agriculture district offices. For more information, contact Gervais or Trish Pannell in Olds at 556-4240, FAX 556-7545 or write Box 2000, Olds, Alberta, TOM 1P0.

MAP'91 is co-sponsored by the Rural Education Development Association (REDA) and Alberta Agriculture with assistance from the private and public sector.

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Contact: Paul Gervais
556-4240

Trish Pannell
556-4240

February 4, 1991
For immediate release

Agri-News briefs

ALBERTA TREE PRUNING COURSES IN MARCH

Anyone who works with trees or who wants to know more about tree beautification can learn more about pruning from Alberta Agriculture tree pruning courses in Edmonton and Brooks. The two-day courses are at the Alberta Tree Nursery and Horticultural Centre in Edmonton on March 5 and 6 and the Alberta Special Crops and Horticultural Research Center in Brooks March 12 and 13. Additional courses will be offered in Edmonton if required. Registration is limited to 30 people. Specific pruning techniques for shade, ornamental and fruit trees will be discussed. Participants should bring their own pruning tools such as secateurs and lopping shears as they will have a chance to practice their skills. Other topics at the course include insect and disease control related to pruning as well as plant structure and hardiness. The registration deadlines are February 22 in Edmonton and March 1 in Brooks. For more information contact Brendan Casement in Edmonton at 422-1789 or Mason Robertson in Brooks at 362-3391.

RAM TEST STATION ENTRY DATES START MARCH 6

Sheep breeders interested in the 1991 Alberta Ram Test Station and Sale can guarantee space by applying by February 15. Space is limited, so producers must preregister and pay a deposit. Entry dates for the test station are March 6 and 20, and April 3. Ram lambs born in the fall of 1990 or later that met weight requirements--50 to 75 pounds for Suffolks and Hampshires or 45 to 70 pounds for other breeds--are eligible for the test station. All rams must have their feet trimmed and be tattooed prior to entry. New and out-of-province contributors are required to have a pre-entry veterinary inspection. Sheep from a bluetongue area as defined by Agriculture Canada won't be accepted. The test station and sale are at Olds College. For more information, contact Kim Stanford station manager in Airdrie at 948-8517.

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Agri-News briefs (cont'd)

HERBICIDE UPDATE AT SPRUCE GROVE FEBRUARY 28

Farmers and chemical dealers are invited to attend an update on herbicides February 28 at the Spruce Grove Motor Inn. A number of issues will be discussed by recognized researchers and Alberta Agriculture and Agriculture Canada staff. Topics on the agenda include wild oat herbicide resistance, herbicides for underseeding forages, adjuvants and surfactants for herbicides and new spraying equipment. Farmers will have an opportunity to discuss these issues and concerns. For registration or other information, contact Ty Faechner, Stony Plain district agriculturist, at 963-6101 or Bill Chapman, regional crop production specialist in Barrhead at 674-8258.

RURAL SUPPORT WORKSHOP IN INNISFAIL MARCH 1-2

Some Alberta farmers and their rural communities are facing crisis. The needs of both and ways to support them are the focus of a two-day workshop in Innisfail March 1 and 2. The conference, "Supporting each other: farmers and rural communities in crisis", was organized by the United Church's agriculture and rural life task group. The task group is hoping the conference will provide an opportunity for concerned farmers, citizens and church members to discuss the needs and struggles of farmers and rural communities in Alberta; to hear experiences of people already involved in rural support groups; to explore ways to create avenues of support in rural communities; and, to consider the kinds of advocacy and action needed to promote a sustainable future for agriculture in Alberta and Canada. While sponsored by the United Church, anyone interested in the subject is encouraged to attend. The workshop is at the Innisfail United Church. Billets are available by request and registration is requested by February 20. For more information about the workshop, contact Gordon McFadyen in Edmonton at 439-1718. Registration information is available by contacting Linda Ferguson in Edmonton at 435-3995.

U OF A RANGE MANAGEMENT TEAM WIN INTERNATIONAL CONTEST

Rated as an underdog since it first started competing, the University of Alberta's range management team has continued to prove its mettle at the

(Cont'd)

Agri-News briefs (cont'd)

U OF A RANGE MANAGEMENT TEAM WIN INTERNATIONAL CONTEST (cont'd)
Society for Range Management's (SRM) comprehensive range management examination. This year's team was first in the comprehensive examination and fifth in the rangeland plant identification contest held in Washington, D.C last month. This is one step up from last year's second place in the comprehensive test. The nine-member team was the only Canadian entry in the 21 teams entered. The team has an underdog label as the University of Alberta has a very small range management section--one professor and one technologist--compared to the very large and world recognized departments of western American universities the Canadians compete against says Arthur Bailey, the university's range management professor. The nine team members and their home towns were: Brian Olson, Camrose; Andrea Sissons, Edmonton; Marcia Hewitt, Edmonton; Byron Jonson, Lacombe; Murray Jorgenson, Bassano; Jodie Kekula, Marsden, Saskatchewan; Julie McDougall, Edmonton; Christine Nykoluk, Edmonton; and, Wendell Stauffer, Fairview. Olson was second in the individual competition and Sissons was fourth. The team also presented a poster on the theme of range management in a global perspective highlighting an information exchange between a group of southern Alberta ranchers and a Tibetan nomadic tribe. Team expenses were raised through private donations, including sponsorship from the SRM, team alumni, the Agriculture Club and the Soil and Water Conservation Society (Alberta chapter). For more information, contact Bailey at 492-5338.

BEEF VIDEO AVAILABLE FOR LOAN

"Beef from pasture to plate" is the story of beef cattle on video now available for loan from Alberta Agriculture's Film Library. Canada's beef industry is the largest single component of the Canadian agriculture with 19 per cent of farm cash receipts received for the sale of cattle and calves. The Beef Information Centre produced seven-minute video is specifically designed to assist teachers and offer resource material for specific aspects of the grade four to six social studies curriculum. For more information, write the Film Library at 7000-113 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T6H 5T6.

AGRI-NEWS Alberta Agriculture, Print Media Branch

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CANADIANA

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February 11, 1991

For immediate release

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Alberta
AGRICULTURE
Print Media Branch

Phone: (403) 427-2121

February 11, 1991
For immediate release

Isley announces commencement of Lambco sale negotiations

The Government of Alberta has entered into sale negotiations for the assets of Lambco, a division of the Alberta Agricultural Development Corporation, to Canada West Foods Corp says agriculture minister Ernie Isley.

Canada West Foods Corp. is owned by Canada West Trading Corporation and Great Northern Grain Terminals Ltd.

Lambco, located in Innisfail, is a federally-inspected processing plant specializing in lamb, sheep and veal. It opened in 1975 as a co-operative, and subsequently encountered operating difficulties. In 1977, the Government of Alberta took over the operation in order to preserve a processing outlet for the province's lamb and sheep producers.

The government's stated intention from the time of the takeover was to return the operation to the private sector as soon as the industry stabilized and an appropriate opportunity became available. Since that time, the industry has matured, markets have been developed, and Lambco has become a major player in the Canadian lamb and veal sector.

Isley announced the government's offer to entertain proposals for the assets of Lambco March 26, 1990. Each of the proposals received in response has been carefully evaluated on the basis of a number of criteria, including the interests of producers and employees, commercial viability, and the return to the Alberta taxpayer.

"The proposal put forward by Canada West Trading Corporation and Great Northern Grain Terminals Ltd. was the one that best met the province's objectives for the privatization of Lambco, in terms of contributing to the further development of Alberta's lamb and veal industry," says Isley. "Canada West Trading and Great Northern Grain Terminals demonstrated a clear vision of the industry's direction and a strong grasp of the industry's needs.

(Cont'd)

Isley announces commencement of Lambco sale negotiations (cont'd)

"Canada West and Great Northern Grain presented well-defined strategies for marketing, new product development and the exploration of future opportunities for further value added processing. Among our most important considerations, they have made a commitment to ensure a fair return to producers, and to encourage current management and staff to be part of the renewed strength at Lambco.

"In addition, anticipated terms of the transaction are considered fair. Pending negotiations, the Province of Alberta expects to more than fully recover its investment in Lambco, which totals approximately $2.9 million."

Negotiations between the Alberta government and Canada West Foods Corp. are to commence immediately. It's expected that these negotiations will result in an agreement for Lambco's sale that will offer significant benefits to Alberta's lamb and veal industry.

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Contact: Dennis Glover
427-3166

AGRI-NEWS Alberta Agriculture, Print Media Branch

February 11, 1991
For immediate release

Take safety steps to prevent coyote predation

Preventative measures can save newborn and young calves from predation says an Alberta Agriculture specialist.

"Studies here in Alberta have shown 78 per cent of calves killed by coyotes were less than one month old and 32 per cent were killed at less than one day of age," says Bob Acorn, northwest regional supervisor of problem wildlife for Alberta Agriculture. "But, if farmers take preventative measures, they can reduce or eliminate predation problems, even now when the coyote population is high."

Coyotes are a particular concern to livestock producers again this year because their population is high he says. Successive mild winters, low disease levels and a diminished fur market have all pushed up the population. "As the coyote population increases, so do farmer fears of coyotes becoming a major problem through the calving season," says Acorn. "But they should keep in mind how to prevent that problem before calving starts."

Improper disposal of dead livestock in the winter is a major factor in where coyotes are and how many are in an area he says. "Agricultural carrion is the main winter food source of coyotes, so farmers need to quickly and properly dispose of all dead livestock, still-borns, afterbirth and other animal remains."

Farmers can call local livestock haulers or a rendering plant to remove dead animals. Afterbirth or small carcasses can be burned. Large carcasses can be hauled to an approved local disposal site by farmers. Animal remains can be also buried or covered with lime to minimize their attraction to the scavenger coyote. Acorn notes the Livestock Diseases Act regulations require farmers dispose of dead animal carcasses within 48 hours of death.

Besides removing carcasses, precautionary measures include keeping animals in well-fenced areas, closely supervising them and bringing them closer to home if possible. Young calves and lambs are especially vulnerable.

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"Caution also needs to be used with cows due to calve, especially first-term heifers which are more likely to experience birthing difficulties," he says. Near-term ewes and lambs are also easy targets for predators he adds.

Sick or injured calves and other livestock should also be in a protected area as they are more susceptible than normal animals to predator attacks.

Acorn says keeping an eye out for coyotes and scaring them away can help prevent predation. "Farmers can shoot coyotes on their property throughout the year. Even if coyotes aren't killed, shooting at them will help frighten them away."

If predation occurs, farmers should immediately contact their municipal agricultural fieldman for an investigation and assistance he adds. "Suspected predator kills should be carefully covered or removed to a protected area until the investigator arrives," he says.

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Contact: Bob Acorn
674-8256

February 11, 1991
For immediate release

Plan before clearing land

Clearing troublesome treed or bush land in a middle of a field may increase field operation efficiency, but might also lead to some undesirable changes says an Alberta Agriculture soil conservation specialist.

"If you're considering clearing land, weigh all the advantages and disadvantages and don't just make your decision based on ease of getting around the field," says Leon Marciak, of Alberta Agriculture's conservation and development branch.

Clearing land affects the microclimate of the cleared area. Among the possible undesirable changes are soil erosion, increased salinity, decreased water quality and loss of wildlife habitat.

Marciak recommends farmers look at three planning considerations in making the best choice for their treed area. To start, check the soils in the treed area. "If they're different than the soils you're currently cropping you may have new problems to contend with," he says. "In central Alberta, for example, removal of willows around wet areas can lead to salinization of the area."

Second, if the treed area is near a stream or gully, then land clearing may affect water quality through increased siltation. "If the water course feeds your dugout, clearing lands near the stream may lead to premature siltation of your dugout or stock watering pond," Marciak says.

Finally, the habitat value of the area should be considered. Marciak suggests consulting with Alberta Forestry, Lands and Wildlife's fish and wildlife division about the area's contribution to the local wildlife population. "There may be programs that will encourage you to keep the area treed," he says.

Marciak adds these are only some of the considerations. The actual site may bring other factors into play. He advises using a farm conservation plan as a land management tool.

(Cont'd)

Plan before clearing land (cont'd)

A farm conservation plan uses aerial photographs and information from a soil survey, municipal assessment and the farmer's own knowledge of his fields to arrive at the best management practices for soils on a particular farm. Some Alberta Agriculture district agriculturists and municipal agricultural fieldmen are now helping farmers to develop individual conservation plans through a farm conservation plan program development by Alberta Agriculture's conservation and development branch.

"Take time to consult with specialists from Alberta Agriculture and other agencies to assist you with your decision," advises Marciak. "I think it's especially important to remember the USDA's Soil Conservation Service motto in this sort of situation: 'Farm the best and save the rest'."

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Contact: Leon Marciak
422-4385

Tom Goddard
422-6530

February 11, 1991
For immediate release

Sign up your farm, agribusiness for school tours

An old adage says nothing is real until it's experienced, and that's especially true for urban youngsters who have never been to a working farm says Alberta Agriculture's Agriculture in the Classroom co-ordinator.

"There's a lot of concern in the agricultural community that urban Alberta is out of touch with farm and agricultural realities," says Betty Gabert. "Through Agriculture in the Classroom and other programs, we're giving both teachers and their students a stronger vision of agriculture's importance in their lives. But, one of the best ways to bridge the two worlds is bringing the classroom to a farm."

To accomplish that goal requires co-operation from farmers and other business people in the agriculture industry throughout the province, she adds. "We're asking anyone who has said there's a need for this type of hands-on education to get involved in filling that need."

Gabert says there's a hope that visiting working farms will avoid a "petting zoo" approach to agriculture. "Seeing the animals is only one part of a diversified industry and business. Having youngsters visit a farm, or research station, or agribusiness, gives them a better understanding of the overall industry."

As well as farms, agribusinesses are both appropriate and suitable places for students to tour, she says. "Students really need to learn that agriculture is about food, and the agri-food industry is both diverse and extensive in their province. One out of three Albertans after all, is directly or indirectly employed by the industry."

In that light, research stations, agricultural colleges, food processors and machinery dealerships are other places Alberta students might want to visit.

Gabert is compiling a list of volunteer farms and other potential sites in the agricultural community for schools. Eventually the list will be part of a resource package available to agricultural ambassadors in all Alberta schools she adds.

(Cont'd)

Sign up your farm, agribusiness for school tours (cont'd)

Farm families and other interested agriculture-related businesses can request a tour tip package from Gabert to help them give tours. Part of the package is an activity kit to send schools about safety, the importance of following the leader and improving observation skills.

Gabert suggest farmers and agribusinesses in rural areas who are interested in hosting tours should contact their local elementary schools to volunteer that service. Farm families and agribusinesses near large urban centres can contact Gabert in Edmonton at 427-2403. She can provide them with a list of schools in their area.

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Contact: Betty Gabert
427-2403

February 11, 1991
For immediate release

"Lighter" eating still has variety, enjoyment

If you've ever felt stressed by trying to make a healthy eating choice, either as you buy groceries or survey a restaurant menu, Alberta Agriculture's provincial food and nutrition specialist has some reassurance for you: healthy eating means enjoying a variety of foods.

"The newest Canadian guidelines for healthy eating recommend, and I quote, 'enjoy a variety of foods'," says Aileen Whitmore. "I think it's a very positive message to give to people, an approach that doesn't make people feel guilty about dos and don'ts."

The keys to the nutrition recommendations from Health and Welfare Canada are a balanced diet from the four food groups and moderation, she says. "If you're really serious about good nutrition, remember that balance and moderation are important."

Other recommendations include: an emphasis on cereals, breads, other grain products, vegetables and fruits; choosing low-fat dairy products, lean meats and foods prepared with little or no fat; maintaining a healthy body weight by regular physical activity and healthy eating; and, limiting salt, alcohol and caffeine.

February's heart month reinforces most of those recommendations Whitmore says, and adds, "It's also national meat month, and I don't think these awareness months are in opposite corners. For heart month, we talk about reducing fat intake in both food choices and how you prepare them, reducing sugar and salt intake and eating plenty of fruits and vegetables.

"Meat month's message is meat makes sense. Certainly meat is an important part of a balanced healthy diet, but most people aren't aware red meats can be just as 'light' as other food choices they usually think of as a way to reduce fats and calories," says Whitmore. For example, eating a three ounce steak on a kaiser bun has eight less grams of fat and 97 less calories than two cups of Caesar salad with dressing, croutons and cheese. "When we want to eat 'light', we have to look at the add-on calories and fat that might be in the salad or the fish or chicken that's been fried.

(Cont'd)

"We also need to take into account how much leaner red meats are today," she says. Compared to a decade ago, beef is 50 per cent leaner and pork is 23 per cent leaner.

Whitmore notes the new guidelines have changed regulations for some pork products. The changes allow new products to be produced with reduced fat and allows water to be substituted for fat. This includes cooked sausage and franks. She adds a variety of low-fat processed meats are now available including cooked ham containing less than four per cent fat.

Consumer salt concerns also have brought a product change, salt reduced bacon. This change also has a disadvantage. "Salt assures meat products of a long and safe shelf life. If you purchase a salt-reduced product, check the best before date and use the meat before that date for its best quality," she says.

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Contact: Aileen Whitmore
427-2412

February 11, 1991
For immediate release

Dairy seminar comes to Red Deer March 12-15

The Western Canadian Dairy Seminar has a new home--Red Deer--for 1991 says the seminar's advisory committee chairman

"The move from the Rockies to a more accessible location was in response to producer and agribusiness requests," says Bill Slack, who is also Alberta Agriculture's northwest regional dairy specialist. The seminar runs March 12 through 15 at the Red Deer Lodge.

The seminar retains the same two and half day format of sessions with each day's activities highlighting a specific subject area of interest to the dairy industry. At the end of each session, the day's speakers join in a panel discussion.

Day one puts the spotlight on forages. "We've stressed for the last number of years that the forage component of feed is the most critical one in determining the level of production a herd achieves," says Slack, "So, forages have had a continued emphasis at the seminar."

Two of this year's headline speakers at the seminar will be discussing topics related to forages, he adds. Randy Shaver, an extension nutritionist and researcher from the University of Wisconsin, will discuss feeding forages to optimize production. Limin Kung, currently an assistant professor at the University of Delaware, will speak on forage conversion methods in hay versus silage.

Alberta Agriculture's Ken Lopetinski, regional forage and special crop specialist, and Jim Helm, head of the field crops branch research section, will discuss whether cereal silage is a viable alternative to alfalfa from an agronomic perspective.

Both Shaver and Kung will also be speakers during day two's look at applied nutrition. Shaver will discuss when and how to use computer and group feeding systems. Kung will take an in-depth look at whether new feed additives are profit makers or profit takers.

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Dairy seminar comes to Red Deer March 12-15 (cont'd)

Gerald Ollis, Alberta Agriculture dairy veterinarian, is also on the speaker line-up during day two. His subject is specific nutrients and how they fit into the overall picture of disease resistance and immunity.

Thursday evening concludes with banquet speaker Roy Berg. The Alberta Agriculture Hall of Fame member will look at dairy production in sustainable agriculture in his own "inimitable and provocative" style.

The future of the dairy industry is up for discussion on the seminar's final day. Ken McKinnon, the man who chaired the federal task force on national dairy policy, will speak about its work. Also on the agenda is multiple component pricing. The new system takes the emphasis off butterfat as the basis for industrial milk pricing.

"It's part of a general trend of lowering fat in foods," says Slack. "This is a definite wave of the future. Ontario and Quebec producers will see this new price scheme starting August 1, and there's a movement toward all Canadian dairy producers being paid for their milk this way by 1993."

Ed Bristow, Alberta Agriculture dairy production branch head, will discuss the multiple component pricing concept. An earlier seminar speaker will discuss feeding to manipulate milk fat and protein content.

Participants can reduce registration costs by registering before February 22 and by registering more than one person from a farm, company or organization. Reduced fees are available for students and single day registrations are also available. For telephone registration, call Sheila or Ingrid at 492-3029.

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Contact: Bill Slack
674-1256

February 11, 1991
For immediate release

Cattle marketing featured in video series

Most cattle producers know more about production than marketing, but marketing can make a bigger difference to their eventual profit.

To help producers better understand how marketing can boost their profits, Alberta Agriculture has produced a series of videos providing an in-depth look at marketing options.

The basic message in the five-part series is how producers can make more money from their cattle says series producer Noel McNaughton. "I think agricultural producers in general have a tendency to deliver their products, rather than market them. It seems to turn out that way, and yet if you spend time on marketing whatever product you're producing on the farm, you'll end up with more money in the bank."

While part of a series, each video can also stand alone, and comes with printed support material including worksheets. The series is designed particularly for the cow-calf operator but has information for all cattle producers.

"More $$ for your feeder cattle" looks at how feeder prices are set, the importance of doing break-even analysis and marketing factors for better prices such as dehorning and sorting cattle.

If the producer is in a rut, "Alternatives for Feeder Cattle" discusses advantages and pitfalls of selling weaned, backgrounded or finished cattle. "Exporting Slaughter Cattle" and "Forward Pricing Cattle" expand on those specific marketing strategies.

The final installment in the series looks at cull cows. This category represents 10 to 20 per cent of the average cow-calf operators gross sales, he says. A recent University of Alberta study points out producers could earn $100 more per head using the right marketing and feeding strategies. These strategies are discussed in the 16-minute video.

All Alberta Agriculture district offices now have the cattle marketing series in their video libraries.

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Contact: Ken Blackley
427-2127

February 11, 1991
For immediate release

New chairman of crop insurance corporation announced

Alberta's associate agriculture minister Shirley McClellan has appointed J. Harold Hannna the new chairman of the Alberta Hail and Crop Insurance Corporation.

Hanna spent 12 years with the department as assistant deputy minister of marketing and economic services from 1974 to 1982 and of production from 1986 to 1990. As well, he was chairman and chief executive officer of the Alberta Agricultural Development Corporation from 1982 to 1986.

"I am extremely pleased that Harold Hanna has accepted this key position in our province's agriculture industry," McClellan said in the appointment announcement. "As chairman of the Alberta Hail and Crop Insurance Corporation, he will have a major part to play in ensuring that Alberta's farmers have the means to stabilize their incomes and make long-range business plans. With the experience, sound judgement and professionalism Harold brings to this new role, I am confident that he will make a lasting contribution to the further development of primary agriculture in our province."

Jim Daines, who had been acting chairman, will return to vice chairman duties. Daines has been a board member since 1981. McClellan emphasized her appreciation of Daines' contribution and said, "I am delighted that Jim's abilities and leadership will continue to benefit the corporation in his capacity as vice chairman." McClellan also expressed her continuing appreciation of the work of the corporation's general manager Glenn Gorrell.

An Alberta government crown corporation, the Alberta Hail and Crop Insurance Corporation is governed by the chairman and a seven member board of directors. It gives farmers access to insurance programs providing protection against crop production losses. In 1991-92, the Alberta Hail and Crop Insurance Corporation will administer the interim federal/provincial Gross Revenue Insurance Plan (GRIP). GRIP is a new safety net program designed to complement crop insurance by offering protection against decreases in gross revenue.

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Contact: Jim Kiss
422-9156

Glenn Gorrell
782-4661

February 11, 1991
For immediate release

Alberta Agriculture appointments

DHE MOVES TO "NEW" LOCATION IN NORTH CENTRAL REGION

Ruby Curran is returning to Coronation as Alberta Agriculture district home economist. Curran was home economist in Coronation for three years in the mid 1980s and has also served in Three Hills and Hanna over the last five and half years. "It's refreshing to be starting at an office where I know so many people," she says of her return. "I look forward to working with clients through 4-H, community organizations and, of course, regular office calls and activities through the office. I'm also excited about renewing acquaintances." Curran's duties are extended beyond Coronation for a few months, as she'll be covering the Stettler office until May. Curran is a 1980 graduate of the University of Alberta's BSc in home economics program. She can be reached in Coronation at 578-3970.

FORT SASKATCHEWAN HAS NEW DISTRICT HOME ECONOMIST

Lynne Nieman is the new Alberta Agriculture district home economist in Fort Saskatchewan. Nieman has seven years experience as a district home economist with the department, starting in Valleyview in 1982. She spent her longest term in Oyen between 1983 and 1989. Her role, she says, "Is to plan, conduct and evaluate educational opportunities for farm families to help them in their role as primary producers." Nieman will also work with area 4-H clubs, an area where she has some expertise. She was provincial camping and exchange specialist in 1987. Nieman is currently a MSc candidate in rural extension studies at the University of Guelph. She holds a BSc in home economics from the University of Saskatchewan. Nieman was raised on her family's grain farm at Englefeld, Saskatchewan, about 140 km east of Saskatoon. She can be reached in Fort Saskatchewan at 998-0190.

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February 11, 1991
For immediate release

Agri-News briefs

14 BEEKEEPER MEETINGS SCHEDULED AROUND PROVINCE

Alberta beekeepers are invited to a series of information meetings scheduled around the province during February and March. The first of the meetings is tonight in Calgary (February 11). Provincial apiculturist Kenn Tuckey and Doug Colter, chief apiary inspector, will be on hand to discuss current issues such as honeybee tracheal mites and the varroa mite. Beekeeper registration and 1990 statistics are also on the agenda. Beekeepers will also have an opportunity to raise matters of concern. The evening meetings all start at 7 p.m. at the local provincial building or district Alberta Agriculture office. The exceptions are Edmonton (J.G. O'Donoghue building) and Calgary (Shaganappi Library). The schedule is as follows: Drumheller, February 12; Rimbey, February 13; Camrose, February 14; Evansburg, February 19; Westlock, February 20; Edmonton, February 21; Wainwright, February 25; Vegreville, February 27; Smoky Lake, February 28; Lethbridge, March 4; Medicine Hat, March 6; Valleyview, March 18; and, Spirit River, March 19. For more information contact the local Alberta Agriculture district office, Tuckey in Edmonton at 427-7098 or Colter in Falher at 837-2211.

KEEP UP ON CURRENT CATTLE MARKET

If you're tracking slaughter cattle trends trying to predict the peak before you sell, an Alberta Agriculture market analyst has a tip for you. Alberta direct sale slaughter steer prices have peaked somewhere between the second week of February and the first week of May during the past five years. "The moral of that variance is to keep your marketings current and don't worry about trying to hit the market peak," says Ron Gietz of the market analysis branch. Gietz does recommend slaughter cattle producers avoid the June market if possible. The peaks and prices since 1986 were as follows: second week of February 1986 at $74.84; first week of May 1987 at $90.58; first week of April 1988 at $89.60; third week of March 1989 $88.48; and, third week of February 1990 at $86.77. For more information, contact Gietz at 427-5376.

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Agri-News briefs (cont'd)

ISLEY 1991 CHAROLAIS BEEF BOOSTER

Agriculture minister Ernie Isley can rest on his laurels as a beef booster with a recent director's chair award from the Alberta Charolais Association. The association's award recognizes a supporter of the beef industry for their work says its president Jack Rairdan. Rairdan says Isley's efforts on behalf of Canadian Charolais breeders to have their cattle pedigrees recognized globally was one of the main reasons he was selected as beef booster of the year. Isley led a delegation of Canadian breeders to the 26th World Charolais Congress last fall in Mexico. At the congress, he spoke to the International Federation of Charolais Breeders and encouraged them to consider Canadian contributions to developing high quality purebreds. The eventual decision opened new marketing opportunities for Canadian breeders. Rairdan says Isley has also been supportive of an export development program the association has started. For more information call Rairdan at 742-3816.

CANOLA COUNCIL TO MEET IN CALGARY

The Canola Council of Canada will hold its 24th annual convention in Calgary March 18 through 20. The conference agenda will examine subjects in the theme of competing and succeeding in the global market. For more information contact the council's office in Winnipeg at (204)944-9494.

ARBORIST TREE CLIMBING WORKSHOP

A four-day workshop introducing the principles and theories of tree climbing will be offered in Calgary February 27 through March 2 and in Edmonton March 6 through 9. Hands-on activities include body thrust (ascent) and repel (descent) in a tree and inspecting, knotting, throwing and using ropes in climbing. For registration and other information, contact Olds College extension services at 556-8344.

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AGRI-NEWS

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For immediate release

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Alberta
AGRICULTURE
Print Media Branch

Phone: (403) 427-2121

February 18, 1991
For immediate release

Register for GST to claim input tax credits

While farms and associated businesses aren't required to register for the GST if their sales are less than $30,000, farmers who want to claim input tax credits for inputs such as fuel must register for the GST says an Alberta Agriculture specialist.

"One of the most common questions we've been asked is 'Should I be registered for the GST'," says Merle Good, tax specialist with the farm business management branch in Olds. "There's a simple answer about what is required, and then there's the advantages of registering even if you aren't required to do so."

If annual taxable sales and services of a business exceed $30,000, it's required to register. In farming, most agricultural production is zero-rated, meaning producers aren't required to collect tax on their sales. However, this zero-rated production is considered a "taxable supply", says Good, and if the farm business total is more than $30,000 then GST registration is required.

Businesses with less than the $30,000 can still register and that has a particular advantage for the farmer. "If you want to claim input tax credits for the GST you pay on farming inputs, you have to be registered. If not, you can't claim refunds for GST paid on taxable inputs such as fuel, building materials, small tools, machinery repairs, veterinary fees and custom work," he says. He adds hobby farmers can't register for the GST because a hobby farm isn't considered a commercial activity.

"If a farmer chooses not to register, then he wouldn't be required to collect GST. A non-registered landowner, for example, wouldn't charge GST on cash rental of farm land even though cash rental of land is taxable supply. But if you don't register, keep in mind you'll pay GST for inputs and not receive any refund," says Good. The non-registered can still claim GST paid on business expenses for income tax purposes, he adds.

(Cont'd)

As a registrant, the farmer keeps track of GST paid on inputs and GST collected on applicable taxable sales and services. If more GST is collected than paid, then the farmer pays the difference to the federal government. If the farmer pays more GST than is collected, then the federal government pays a refund.

"This refund isn't taxable for income tax purposes. GST collected or paid isn't treated as an income or expense for income tax purposes. From a bookkeeping point of view, GST collected or paid should be recorded in separate accounts and not be recorded in an income and expense statement," says Good.

Good says another common question is whether husbands and wives who file separate income tax returns can apply for separate GST registration numbers or qualify for two small business administration credits. "Revenue Canada's present position is to treat such arrangements as associated business ventures, and as a result will only issue one GST registration number. Only one credit will be provided in this situation."

The small business tax credit is a one-time credit available to small business to ease the transition to the GST system. The credit is a minimum of $300 to a maximum of $1,000. It's available to businesses required to register for the GST that have quarterly taxable sales of less than $500,000. This credit isn't available to farm businesses that decided to register, but weren't required to register for the GST.

Farmers who filed income tax returns in 1990 were mailed information guides about the GST by Revenue Canada notes Good. The guide included how to register and accounting tips. Registration forms are available at Canada Post or by calling Revenue Canada toll-free at 1-800-661-3498, in Calgary at 292-6990 or in Edmonton at 448-1309.

"To register you'll need name, social insurance number, type of business (individual, partnership, joint venture) and annual GST taxable revenue," he says. Revenue Canada has also indicated it will help people to register and with bookkeeping procedures.

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Contact: Merle Good
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Douglas Duff
556-4238

February 18, 1991
For immediate release

Headlines linking red meats and cancer need scrutiny

Recent headlines linking colon cancer and red meats are misleading says Alberta Agriculture's provincial food and nutrition specialist.

"The study looked at epidemiology, or incidence, of a disease, and wasn't designed to establish the disease's cause," says Aileen Whitmore. The study published in the **New England Journal of Medicine** last December outlined the details of study started in 1980 of more than 88,000 nurses. Widely reported conclusions said daily consumption of red meat more than doubles the risk of colon cancer. Its data suggested dietary fat in red meat contributes to at least one form of cancer and the more meat consumed the greater the risk.

The study's authors conclude in their abstract that their data "provide evidence for the hypothesis that a high intake of animal fat increases the risk of colon cancer".

"What that means," says Whitmore, "is the relationship between red meat and cancer still needs more study. This study, and no other study to date, has shown a cause-and-effect relationship between normal consumption of red meat and colon cancer.

"The dire warnings of the headlines scared people. And it's the fault of mass media that didn't carefully analyze the study's boundaries and actual findings. It created the same jumping on the bandwagon phenonmenon as when one study said oat bran helped reduce cholestrol levels and a later one contradicted the findings.

"We have to wait for additional studies that confirm findings and not just take the first one as the end truth. Research findings build to an eventual answer."

This study divided the nurses into groups including those who ate beef, pork or lamb as a main dish more than once a day and those who ate meat less than once a month. In the whole study group, 150 cases of colon cancer were reported. Sixteen of the cases were in the group who ate red meats more than once daily.

(Cont'd)

Headlines linking red meats and cancer need scrutiny (cont'd)

"So, when you look at the actual numbers there is little difference in the number of cases," she says. "One researcher has said there's a good chance looking at any random sample of almost any same-sized group would find the same number of cases of colon cancer."

A U.S. nutritionist and columnist criticized the study as imprecise asking nurses to recall in a questionnaire what foods they'd eaten in the previous year. Edward Blunz also questioned if a group of nurses' experiences would be comparable to a broad cross-section of the population and noted lifestyle factors weren't incorporated in the study.

A U.S. National Cancer Institute doctor said the study "adds to the evidence of a risk of dietary fat", but Dr. Peter Greenwald cautioned against interpreting it to mean people should stop eating red meat entirely. "Meat has important nutrient value. I would be careful about a recommendation that takes out from our diet a lot of important nutrients. The message should be to cut down, not to cut out."

Nutritionists agree total fat in the diet should be reduced says Whitmore. "But it seems unfair to concentrate on red meat when the real problem is the total fat in the diet from all sources. National nutrition guidelines recommend a reduction in fat to 30 per cent of total calories.

"It's also important to note the public has a tendency to assume all red meats are high in fat. The fact is since this research project started, the fat content in red meat in the United States has been reduced by 27 per cent in beef and 31 per cent in pork."

Canadian beef and pork is even leaner. Beef is 50 per cent leaner and pork 23 per cent leaner than a decade ago. Leanness also depends on the cut she says. Today's lean cuts of beef and pork aren't considered to be high fat food she emphasizes. "With its improved leanness, coupled with the fact that red meat is a source of iron and zinc readily utilized by the body plus Vitamin B_{12}, it remains a wise food choice and like all other food choices it should be eaten in moderation."

As well, she adds, people shouldn't be lulled into believing chicken and fish don't have fat. "Chicken with its skin has a high fat content. Some red meat cuts even have less fat than chicken without its skin."

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Contact: Aileen Whitmore
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February 18, 1990
For immediate release

Select horse sale boosts industry profile

Alberta's first all-breeds select horse sale in May will give breeders a better showcase for their product says an Alberta Agriculture specialist.

"Successful horse breeding areas have one thing in common, established high quality auction sales. Thoroughbred yearling sales in Kentucky are a good example," says Les Burwash of the horse industry branch. "The Alberta breeds sale of select horses is the kind of public auction that will give our breeders a feature auction showcasing the breeds and breeders and providing the buyer with a sound product."

The sale and four days of activity surrounding the sale are a joint effort of the horse industry branch, representatives of breed associations and Spruce Meadows. Spruce Meadows is where the sale will be held May 4 and 5.

Breeders nominated more than 160 horses for the sale. Representatives from breed associations, the horse industry branch and Spruce Meadows inspected the nominees to ensure they met minimum quality standards. Horses admitted to the sale will undergo a second inspection for soundness when they arrive at Spruce Meadows on May 2.

About a dozen breeds will be represented at the sale including appaloosa, Arabians, paints, pintos, quarter horses, saddle breds, trakenhers, fjords, Tennesee walkers, Morgans, thoroughbreds and Hannoverians. Horses can be viewed May 2 and 3 and the morning of May 4. Interested buyers will be able to try out the sale horses at that time.

The evening before the sale selected representatives of the breeds will be showcased in an "evening of the horse". Burwash says the entertainment package shows uses of the different breeds.

In this first year, advertising efforts to reach potential buyers have been concentrated in Alberta and Western Canada says Burwash. Some advertising has also been done in the northwestern United States and Europe.

For more information about the sale contact Burwash in Calgary at 297-6650 or Jack Hugill, sales co-ordinator at Spruce Meadows, at 254-3200.

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Contact: Les Burwash
297-6650

Jack Hugill
254-3200

NEWS Alberta Agriculture, Print Media Branch

February 18, 1991
For immediate release

Competitive quality pork, industry co-operation key to future

Despite being dwarfed by the world's major pork suppliers, Alberta pork producers can have a bright future by capitalizing on their high quality product.

"One of the things we do best in Alberta is produce competitive quality livestock," said Barry Mehr, Alberta Agriculture assistant deputy minister of production and marketing. Speaking at a recent pork industry seminar in Banff, Mehr joined two other speakers looking at the future of the industry.

Mehr said given positive market access, producers, packers and processors can increase their production significantly by the year 2000, to a target level of 80,000 hogs per week. The opportunities for increased market development are in the western United States, Japan and Latin America, he noted.

Securing those markets, or ensuring the viability and growth of the industry, requires long-term planning, he added. That sort of planning had been difficult with labour and trade disputes, but Mehr said now is the time for long-range planning.

One reason for optimism is the quality of the product. Canadian pork from Alberta has a global reputation for high quality, from purebred breeding stock through to processed bacon and ham.

Alberta also has a production advantage with lower costs than in other parts of Canada. The province's producers and packers will have to maintain both quality and competitiveness to compete with the United States, Denmark, Taiwan and other production regions in Canada, he said.

As well as meeting cost and quality demands, the industry has the challenge of working together, Mehr said. "All three groups--producers, packers and processors--need to work together to achieve the mutually beneficial goal of a more efficient, growth-oriented industry."

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Access to the U.S. market is a key concern for Canadian producers said another of the speakers, University of Guelph's Larry Martin. Martin, a professor in the department of agricultural economics and business, noted the U.S. used its countervailing duties and trade laws as "thinly disguised protectionism". He also noted the January 22 ruling by the Bi-national Trade Panel will likely result in the reversal of the U.S. decision to impose countervailing duties on Canadian pork.

Another Guelph professor, Ron Ball, was the third speaker who looked at the pork industry's future. His focus was on how consumers effect swine production. Consumer demand for quick convenient nutritious food, whether as take-out or at a deli counter, has given the pork industry a challenge, as have consumer concerns about food safety and animal welfare.

Ball suggested education as the key to consumer understanding of their food and how it's produced. His challenge was for the whole agriculture industry to communicate with the urban public by being open about motives, telling them about fears and concerns, telling consumers how valuable they are and finding out what consumers want to know.

The Banff Pork Seminar is an annual conference for pork industry.

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Contact: Barry Mehr
427-2442

Fred Schuld
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February 18, 1991
For immediate release

Regional herbicide update in Stony Plain

Farmers and chemical dealers can update their knowledge of herbicides at a regional meeting in Spruce Grove on February 28.

"This leading edge look at herbicides is designed to look at key issues and developments," says Bill Chapman, northwest regional crop production specialist based in Barrhead. A number of speakers will share their expertise at the day long meeting.

Leading off the day is Neil Harker a research scientist from Agriculture Canada's Lacombe research station. "Reducing registered herbicide rates with adjuvants and surfactants is a major effort in our research program," says Harker, who discuss that research in more detail.

Wild oat resistance to herbicides is also on the agenda. "We have only begun to look at resistance and cross resistance," says Denise Maurice of Alberta Agriculture's crop protection branch. Alberta Agriculture is currently monitoring a number of resistant sites in the province.

Another Alberta Agriculture specialist, Dan Cole, supervisor of integrated weed control with the crop protection branch, will discuss minor uses of herbicides. "We have finally achieved some new minor uses in forages," he says. "These new minor uses can be helpful when evaluating what herbicide to use."

The day concludes with Dan Sengeus, branch manager with John Brooks Spraying Systems of Canada. Sengeus will discuss the latest developments in spray nozzles and monitoring equipment.

Organizers request registration by February 25. The $15 fee includes lunch and the GST. For more information, contact Ty Faechner, Stony Plain district agriculturist, at 963-6101 or Chapman in Barrhead at 674-8258.

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Contact: Bill Chapman
674-8258

Ty Faechner
963-6101

February 18, 1991
For immediate release

Agri-News briefs

NANTON 4-H TRAVELS TO DENVER

An Alberta 4-H member came away from Denver with a good impression of the Foundation for the Future of Agriculture (FFA). Tova Place, a Nanton 4-H club member, earned a trip to the Denver Western National Stock Show as the overall winner at the provincial multi-species judging competition last November. However, her judging skills weren't required during her stay in Denver. Place learned more about the FFA, formerly the Future Farmers of America, from her hosts. FFA has built a classroom agriculture program with an emphasis on agricultural business that's available in high schools. Place also spent time working at a "childrens' ranch" petting zoo while at the stock show. She also watched a collegiate judging competition and joined the contestants at their awards breakfast. Place says the judging competitions are slightly different than in Alberta, oral reasons are presented one-on-one, not in front an audience. Her five day trip was sponsored by the Alberta Canada All Breeds Association (ACABA). Other winners at the provincial competition earn trips to Regina's Agribition judging competition and a fall 4-H competition in Denver. For more information, call Place in Nanton at 646-5785 or Henry Wiegman at Alberta Agriculture's 4-H branch in Edmonton at 427-2541.

AIA MEETS IN RED DEER MARCH 8&9

Sustainable agriculture is a popular topic in agricultural circles these days. The Alberta Institute of Agrologists (AIA) will be using a variation, "the sustainable agrologist", as the theme of its annual conference March 8 and 9 in Red Deer. The conference starts with a choice of two afternoon tours for participants, either heading south to Olds College and other points of interest or north to Lacombe and the Agriculture Canada research station. Morning sessions the next day concentrate on the balance required in being a successful professional and ethics and professionalism. The AIA annual business meeting runs in the afternoon. The conference winds up with a

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Agri-News briefs (cont'd)

AIA MEETS IN RED DEER MARCH 8&9 (cont'd)
banquet and guest speaker Tim Ball, from the University of Winnipeg. His topic is farming and marketing in the global village. For more information, contact Jennifer Aalhus at 782-3316 or Gary Briggs at 227-3391.

ALBERTA CUSTOM RATES SURVEYS AVAILABLE

Alberta Agriculture's statistics branch has published four surveys of custom rates charged in Alberta in 1990. The surveys include tillage operations, grain harvesting, hay and silage making and land clearing and breaking. The surveys are available to help producers budget for these services in 1991 says Maureen Whitlock. Tillage operations include per acre and per hour rates for ploughing, discing, cultivating and harrowing. Cultivating rates from the 48 reports show an increase from a dollar per acre to $1.50 per acre from 1989, she says. Grain harvesting operations surveyed in 1990 included custom rates for swathing, combining, hauling and drving grain. Those rates didn't show a distinctive increase from 1989. Hay and silage making operations reported in 14 different categories had no general trend of higher or lower rates. Custom rates for clearing and breaking show 1990 rates from 203 custom operators. For more information, or a copy of these reports, call Craig Edwards, farm business management branch in Olds, at 556-4248 or Whitlock in Edmonton at 427-4011.

CROP PROTECTION WORKSHOPS IN HUSSAR AND CHEADLE HALLS

Crop protection workshops discussing weed control, insects and diseases will be held at Hussar Hall February 19 and 21 and Cheadle Hall February 20 and 22. Day one will concentrate on weed control looking at hard to control perennials, reduced tillage seeding, summer fallow alternatives and biological weed control. Day two starts by looking at the insect pests of bertha armyworm, Russian wheat aphid, sawfly and flea beetle plus field scouting. The diseases section includes crop rotations, sclerotinia, barley leaf diseases, verticillium wilt and blackleg of canola. For more information, contact Strathmore district agriculturist Scott Meers at 934-3355.

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AGRI-NEWS

February 25, 1991

For immediate release

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Alberta
AGRICULTURE
Print Media Branch

Phone: (403) 427-2121

February 25, 1991
For immediate release

Livestock focus of ministerial mission

Two agreements between Alberta and Mexico are paying dividends to swine and beef breeders in both countries.

As part of a recent ministerial mission to Mexico formalizing existing and new sales initiatives, Alberta Agriculture Minister Ernie Isley officially opened the Alberta Swine Sales Farm near Guadalajara.

A project of the Alberta Swine Breeders' Association (ASBA) and the Jalisco Swine Union, the facility serves as a showcase and sale barn for Alberta swine breeders. In the first two weeks after the late January opening, 60 hogs from the first shipment of 100 were sold. Another swine shipment is currently being organized by ASBA and should arrive in early March says Doug Bienert, Alberta Agriculture trade director.

As well, Hector Garcia, the sales centre's general manager, has been in Alberta for two weeks for a full immersion in the Alberta swine industry. Garcia will be responsible for promoting and selling the Alberta product from the sales depot.

"ASBA has come up with a unique way of promoting swine genetics in Mexico," says Isley. "This approach is particularly beneficial to the small Mexican swine producer who gets access to our quality genetics without having to make the substantial financial commitment involved in travelling to Canada."

The Mexican trip also included a new protocol agreement between the Alberta Canada All Breeds Association (ACABA) and the Jalisco Cattlemen's Union. Five years ago the two organizations started a bull test program with on-farm demonstrations of 17 Alberta beef bulls. During trial breeding programs Mexican producers saw greater ease of calving, higher birth and weaning weights, and increased rates of gain from the Alberta purebreds.

"We talked to a breeder during a ranch visit who was very enthusiastic about the Limousin bull he used," says Isley. Other breeds represented in the test were Simmental, Angus, Charolais, Gelbvieh, Maine Anjou, Shorthorn, Blonde d'Aquitaine and Galloway.

(Cont'd)

Livestock focus of ministerial mission (cont'd)

As part of the new agreement, the bulls are being sold to Mexican producers. The profits will be pooled and matched by the cattlemen's union. The Jalisco Credit Union will loan four dollars for each of the dollars in the pool. The final revolving fund, estimated at around $200,000, will be used by the union's 50,000 members to buy purebred stock from Alberta and other sources. Jalisco is a state in central Mexico.

"ACABA has done an excellent job of opening markets in Latin America for Alberta livestock breeders," says Isley. "This particular agreement is just one example of the new markets established for Alberta breeders."

Mexico was the ministerial mission's second destination. The trip started in Texas at the National Cattlemen's Association (NCA) convention. In conjunction with ACABA, the Calgary Stampede and Edmonton Northlands, the mission focused on promoting and providing exposure for Alberta livestock genetics.

Isley, along with representatives of the Canadian Cattlemen's Association and the Alberta Cattle Commission, met with the NCA executive. Discussions included meat inspection at the Montana border, subsidized European beef and trade agreements.

Of particular interest to the Alberta beef industry was a task force struck to examine the border inspection issue. During the convention, the NCA called for a joint conference of its own members, the CCA, both federal agriculture departments, the American Meat Institute and other concerned agencies to resolve claims tainted or unwholesome Canadian beef is entering the United States.

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Contact: Doug Beinert
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Elton Dunk
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February 25, 1991
For immediate release

Leasing farmland has many GST permutations

How you pay your rent on leased farmland makes a difference to whether the landlord charges GST says an Alberta Agriculture tax specialist.

The traditional crop-share leasing agreement is zero-rated. "If the landlord receives payment as a percentage of the crop grown, no GST is required to be paid or collected," says Merle Good of the farm business management branch in Olds.

In a cash rental situation, paying GST depends on whether the landlord is a GST registrant. "A registered landlord is required to charge the renter GST on the rental fee. Then, if the renter is registered, the GST paid can be treated as an input tax credit and may be refunded. On the other hand, if the landlord isn't registered, he or she isn't required to include the tax in the rent," says Good.

Cash leases don't have to be rewritten to incorporate the land renter's requirement to pay the GST, he adds. All existing and new contracts are subject to the GST legislation regulations.

The same scenario applies to pasture rental, if the land owner is registered, then GST is added to the rental price. If the landlord isn't registered, then no GST is added. Good notes some professionals are advising pasture rental be treated as standing forage since the sale of forage is GST zero-rated.

Anyone who has a Crown grazing lease should be aware the fees charged for those leases are taxable. "These fees, as are all payments for the use of and/or right to use real property of a government or municipality are taxable," he says.

Landowners and farmers have asked questions about the GST and oil company leases and seismic testing on their land says Good. "In the legislation, there is no GST required for granting the right to explore or exploit natural resources. Revenue Canada Excise has confirmed surface leases and seismic testing won't attract GST. Farmers who receive payments from an oil company for a mineral lease or royalties won't have GST attached.

(Cont'd)

AGRI-NEWS Alberta Agriculture, Print Media Branch

"However, GST treatment of income from pipeline leasing isn't as clear. Only pipelines used to transport to central processing locations are zero-rated. Pipelines used for distribution are deemed taxable," he says.

Custom services and livestock leases have also prompted GST questions. Most custom services, such as custom combining, are taxable. "However, if the supplier of the custom work isn't registered, no tax should be charged or paid," says Good.

There's also the unique situation if the custom operator is paid in a crop-share rather than by cash. "GST will still apply and if no money changes hands, the GST applies to the fair market value of the taxable goods or services, unless the arrangement is specifically a crop-share leasing agreement for agricultural rented farmland," he says.

Cattle leasing, whether paid in cash or crop-share, appears not to require any GST, he says. "A supply of livestock is zero-rated and by definition, supply includes a sale or lease."

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Contact: Merle Good
556-4237

Douglas Duff
556-4238

February 25, 1991
For immediate release

National swine health standards under discussion

National health reporting standards for swine breeding herds might not be too far down the road says an Alberta Agriculture swine veterinarian.

Garry Finell is the veterinary representative for Western Canada on a 10 member national steering committee. Currently the committee is seeking opinions about its 42 page draft discussion paper. The paper outlines the methods of monitoring, the diseases to be monitored and standards for the proposed National Swine Health Information Plan (NSHIP).

Finell, who administers the Alberta swine herd health program, says a national plan would make herd comparisons easier than they are now. Currently, no two provinces have the same swine health programs. In the past, uncertainty about health status, and in some cases provincial program restrictions, blocked interprovincial trade of live breeding stock.

NSHIP is the result of two years of planning and has several unique features says Finell. First, the plan is voluntary. Seedstock herds enrolled in the voluntary program must agree to have their herds monitored for six economically important diseases. They are: transmissible gastroenteritis (TGE), swine dysentery, actinobacillus pleuropneumonia, mycoplasma and other pneumonias and sarcoptic mange. Provisions exist to add more diseases to the list as accurate tests become available, he adds.

"Secondly, NSHIP is probably the only plan in the world which tolerates the presence of disease," says Finell. Many existing plans exclude membership once a monitored disease is detected. This plan is different because it wouldn't necessarily interfere with a producer's livelihood. "Rather, NSHIP puts an emphasis on monitoring. For example, two producers known to have TGE might exchange hogs with each other without concern. Otherwise, they might both be out of the trading scene altogether," he says.

The third unique feature of NSHIP is a biosecurity rating. It assesses the risk of introducing disease when animals are purchased from a particular herd.

(Cont'd)

National swine health standards under discussion (cont'd)

"It's a dynamic assessment, in other words, it could change each time the herd is visited by an inspector," he says. Each herd starts with 100 points. Based on a veterinary assessment and a questionnaire completed during each visit, points are subtracted each time a health risk is identified. Mice, which can transmit TGE and swine dysentery, for example, might present a risk at one visit. By the next visit, the owner can improve the herd's biosecurity assessment with a rodent control program.

Eventally Agriculture Canada hopes NSHIP's monitoring results from across the country will help to identify eligible herds for exporting swine breeding stock.

Finell says he thinks the plan has the potential to promote international, interprovincial and intraprovincial trade. Commercial hog producers who buy replacement breeding stock from seedstock producers have as much to gain from NSHIP as seedstock producers, he says. "The swine health information should make all buyers of breeding stock more informed buyers."

Finell says he's already received some excellent feedback on the discussion paper. He expects the steering committee will meet again in March to work the suggestions they've received into the final draft. Anyone interested in receiving a copy of the NSHIP draft discussion paper can call Finell in Edmonton at 422-4844.

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Contact: Garry Finell
422-4844

February 25, 1991
For immediate release

Field peas working well in commercial swine diets

Alberta grown peas are perfectly suited for use in swine diets says an Alberta Agriculture swine nutritionist.

"Analysis has shown that peas, especially because of their amino acid profile, are suitable for swine," says Sam Jaikaran.

Field peas are commonly used in swine feeds in areas where peas are grown. But, Jaikaran notes some farmers have been hesitant to use peas, and have even been advised by some feed salesman against using peas.

"The main reason for this advice must be lack of knowledge of the nutritional value and the feed characteristics of peas. Many feeding trials in Western Canada, Europe and other places have confirmed the performance of this feedstuff in swine diets," he says.

One concern farmers have is with feed refusal. Jaikaran notes feed refusal has only been a problem when there were significant amounts of weed seeds either in the peas or grain. "So, if there's a refusal problem it's more likely because of a high content of weed seeds," he says.

Another common misunderstanding involves the Radley pea. About half of all peas grown and fed in Alberta today are of the Radley cultivar. Some people have misinterpreted information about trypsin and chymotrypsin inhibitors in Radley peas, he says.

"To date I haven't received any complaints about feed acceptance, growth rates or feed conversion related to Radley peas. From current field performance of feeder pigs and sows fed Radley peas, I certainly feel that the levels of trypsin and chymotrypsin aren't high enough to cause interference with protein digestion," he says.

If a producer is concerned about protein digestion problems, Jaikaran suggests using one-half to one kilogram of supplemental methionine per tonne of grower and finisher feeds. "This will overcome the only amino acid shortage which might occur," he says. Research is planned to investigate this issue, he adds.

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Contact: Sam Jaikaran
427-6361

February 25, 1991
For immediate release

New sponsorship announced for child's farm safety guide

NOVA is a new sponsor of Alberta Agriculture's farm safety program for children.

NOVA joins TransAlta Utilities Corporation as co-sponsor of the "Child's Guide to Farm Safety", a workbook designed to provide children with the special skills and awareness needed to work and play safely on farms.

"I am very pleased the NOVA Corporation of Alberta has joined our effort to ensure the safety of Alberta's farm children. Though an exciting, educational place for children to live or visit, the farm is also a workplace, and one with a number of special hazards. My department's farm safety program staff have worked hard to provide rural children with the information they need to keep safe and healthy through the Child's Guide to Farm Safety. We are delighted that NOVA will be assisting in this vital initiative," said associate minister Shirley McClellan in the sponsorship announcement.

"We are pleased to have the opportunity to emphasize safety to Alberta's farm youth, and, through them, to the Alberta farm community as a whole," said Robert B. Snyder, division senior vice president, on behalf of Nova.

Since 1976, the Child's Guide to Farm Safety has been available to rural school districts throughout the province. In the 10 years following its introduction, the incidence of accidents among children on the farm decreased by more than 50 per cent. Demand for the materials has grown each year, and most rural school children now have the opportunity to take part in the program. Requests for the guide have come from across Canada, and as far away as the United States and Australia.

"The support of good corporate citizens such as NOVA, TransAlta Utilities and our past sponsors has been one of the keys to the success of this important program. Another has been the help we've received in putting the guides together from children themselves, through their drawings and essays. Because children are teaching children, the guide's messages on farm safety really hit home," said McClellan.

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Contact: Jim Kiss
422-9156

Solomon Kyeremanteng
427-2186

February 25, 1991
For immediate release

Agri-News briefs

BLAST OFF TO AG AND SPACE CONFERENCE IN CAMROSE

A conference about space age technologies in agriculture comes to Camrose March 10 through 12. "The conference objective is to show and demonstrate the technology and its benefits and give a good sense of what remote sensing can do for farmers and the agricultural community," says Leon Marciak, Alberta Agriculture technical representative on the conference committee. Remote sensing can be used in a variety of ways, he says, including as an inventory tool to monitor land qualities and a management tool to make better land resource decisions. Speakers in two streams, one aimed at the farmer and the other at the professional agrologist or technician, will provide sessions on number of topics. A trade show and educational program for Camrose area students are also part of the conference. Two post-conference workshops on farm electronics and digital imaging are also offered. Marciak says the conference agenda has a broad appeal to both rural and urban residents, and particularly to people interested in agriculture and the environment. Marciak acknowledges assistance from the University of Calgary, University of Alberta and the Alberta Remote Sensing Centre for technical and program support. The conference fee is $2 per person or $4 for a family. For more information, contact the Camrose Regional Exhibition at 672-3640.

PEA PRODUCTION UPDATE

Learn more about varieties and management in pea production at an update in Lacombe on February 28. Also on the agenda are demonstration plot results, weed control, marketing, industry updates, displays and a report from Craig Shaw, Pulse Growers Commission chairman. The program is sponsored by zone two of the commission and Alberta Agriculture. For more information, call Neil Miller in Lacombe at 782-3301.

(Cont'd)

Agri-News briefs (cont'd)

FARM WOMEN "PULL TOGETHER"

Alberta farm women had a pulling together feeling at the third annual Alberta Farm Women's Conference in Camrose last month. A highlight of conference activities was the farm women of the year awards luncheon. Seventeen nominees were honored and Ulla de Bruijn of Ponoka was named the winner by MLA judges Connie Osterman, Nick Taylor and Derek Fox. The Alberta Farm Women's Network also chose a new executive for 1991. Janet Walter of Red Deer is the chairperson, Rose Krugeur of Thorsby is the secretary, Joanne Pahl of Medicine Hat is the Treasurer and Mary Flemming of Spruce View will be newsletter editor. For more information contact the Alberta Farm Women's Network in Edmonton at 9623-83 Street, T6C 3A3.

CANADIAN FARM WOMEN IN DECISION MAKING CONFERENCE IN OTTAWA IN APRIL

A two-day conference in Ottawa April 5 and 6 will examine the role Canadian farm women have in decision making. Canadian farm women spend an average of 40 hours per week on farm work. Many are also responsible for child and home care and off-farm work, and few women hold positions of power on the farm or in farm organizations. Organizers says there is a growing concern women find it difficult to or are unable to participate in the decision making process behind and beyond the farm gate. The conference is sponsored by the Canadian Federation of Agriculture (CFA) with assistance from Agriculture Canada's Farm Women's Bureau. The registration fee is nominal, $30, and covers the banquet and a conference kit. For more information, contact the CFA at 1101, 75 Albert Street, Ottawa, Ontario, K1P 5E7 or call (613)236-3633.

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MAR 3 1991

AGRI-NEWS

March 4, 1991

For immediate release

This Week

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Alberta
AGRICULTURE
Print Media Branch

Phone: (403) 427-2121

March 4, 1991
For immediate release

Early snowmelt limits dugout potential

Early snowmelt has decreased the amount of snow available for runoff to pasture dugouts and for farmstead use.

"Gradual snowmelt through February has limited the volume of runoff available to fill dugouts," says Neil MacAlpine, a farm water management engineer with Alberta Agriculture's conservation and development branch. "But, careful management and timely planning this spring will provide a maximum dugout water supply for 1991."

This winter's snow fall was above the long term average, but the already melted snow, means farmers need to be ready for any future snowfalls to ensure their dugouts receive maximum runoff this spring. "Make sure culverts, natural runways and field ditches are clean and work efficiently to drain into the farm dugout," advises MacAlpine. Blocked culverts or snowdrifts act as temporary ice dams and can divert water past the dugout. If snowmelt is rapid, there might not be enough time to remove blockages. He also reminds farmers new dugouts require extra attention to fill.

"Farmers who anticipate pumping will be necessary to fill dugouts, should line up pumping equipment before any remaining snowmelt. If they don't have their own equipment, they should contact equipment rental companies," he says. Alberta Agriculture provides dugout filling equipment, he adds, but, on a first-come, first-served basis. For more information on this service, contact local Alberta Agriculture district offices.

Farmers who believe extraordinary measures are necessary to divert water from other sources such as sloughs, creeks or watercourses should contact the nearest Alberta Environment water resources administration office. The five regional offices are in: Calgary (297-6582), Edmonton (427-5296), Lethbridge (381-5399), Peace River (624-6167) and Red Deer (340-5310).

For more information on how to improve snow runoff for dugouts, contact MacAlpine in Edmonton at 422-6530, Brian West in Red Deer at 340-5322 or any Alberta Agriculture regional engineer or technologist.

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Contact: Neil MacAlpine
422-6530

March 4, 1991
For immediate release

Isley announces stabilization plan for feeder lambs

Alberta's agriculture minister has announced a new five-year program designed to stabilize income for purchased feeder lamb producers.

The Alberta Purchased Feeder Lamb Stabilization Plan is retroactive to January 1, 1991 Ernie Isley said in the program announcement.

During the past three years Alberta producers of purchased lambs have been working diligently with federal and provincial officials to incorporate purchased lambs into the National Tripartite Stabilization Program (NTSP). Unfortunately, the diversified nature of the lamb industry across Canada has made it difficult to integrate Alberta's lamb feedlot sector with the national program.

"The Alberta government recognizes the difficulties our lamb feedlot industry is experiencing," said Isley. "Since tripartite stabilization is not possible at this time, we will implement a bipartite program to ensure that appropriate market risk protection is available to this important component of the lamb industry."

The purpose of the Alberta Purchased Feeder Lamb Stabilization Plan is to provide producers who purchase feeder lambs for finishing with a market risk stabilization plan similar to the protection offered through the NTSP. In the NTSP, the federal and provincial governments and participating producers contribute equal shares toward premiums, which go into a stabilization account. The account issues payments when market prices for specific commodities fall below designated support levels.

The Purchased Feeder Lamb Stabilization Plan is similar to an NTSP plan, except that premiums will be shared equally by the provincial government and participating producers. The program's support level will be based on the cash costs of production, plus 95 percent of the average margin. Only North American-born lambs will be eligible.

(Cont'd)

AGRI NEWS Alberta Agriculture, Print Media Branch

Isley announces stabilization plan for feeder lambs (cont'd)

"The Alberta government remains committed to the on-going development of a viable lamb and sheep industry in this province. Support to our lamb feedlot sector through this program will allow for a more regular supply of market lambs after Alberta home-raised market lambs have passed through the system.

"As well," said Isley, "additional marketing alternatives will be available to ewe flock owners, as they will no longer have to keep their lambs until slaughter weight is reached. This program has the potential to benefit all lamb producers, and the industry in general, through a guaranteed supply and the maintenance of a viable packing and processing industry in Alberta."

Enrollment forms and program handbooks are currently being developed, and should be available to producers by the end of February. Lamb producers wishing more information should contact Alberta Agriculture's central program support office, at 422-0137 or 1-800-232-9479 (toll-free).

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Contact: Brad Klak
427-2137

Ken Moholitny
422-9167

Ron Weisenburger
427-5083

March 4, 1991
For immediate release

Wanham quilter wins provincial honors

"Pink starburst" won a Wanham women first place honors at the fourth Alberta quilting competition.

Darlene Webber took home a $900 cheque for the best entry in the fourth annual Canada Packers Alberta Quilt Competition. The award was presented in Grande Prairie during the Alberta Association of Agricultural Societies' (AAAS) awards banquet. Coincidentally, Webber's quilt qualified for the provincial competition by winning locally in Grande Prairie. This was the second consecutive year the Grande Prairie local winner went on to capture provincial honors.

Alice Luiken of Manning, who was third overall last year, moved up a notch this year and received second prize for her "Northern sunset" quilt. She won $300 from second place sponsor, the AAAS.

The third place quilt by Eunice Berreth of Beiseker depicted a seniors' activity theme. She received a $200 cheque from the host Grande Prairie Agricultural Society.

Following the award presentations, Murray Stewart, representing Canada Packers, formally turned over the Canada Packers quilt collection to the AAAS. Canada Packers sponsored the competition for the last time in 1990-91. The company has new owners and sponsorship has been withdrawn.

The fifth annual competition will begin this summer under its new banner, "the AAAS provincial quilt competition", says Eve Cockle of the AAAS. However, the AAAS is looking for a new sponsor for the competition to provide funds so the quilt collection can continue to tour the province.

Winning quilts from the first four years of competition plus future winners form a heritage collection. They are available for display.

Presentations to the winning quilters was a finale to two days of activities that included quilting workshops.

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Contact: Eve Cockle
427-2174

March 4, 1991
For immediate release

Soil conservation basic in sustainable agriculture

Soil conservation is basic to sustainable agriculture. That was one of the many messages 800 Albertans heard at a series of workshops held last month across the province.

A broad, balanced view of sustainable agriculture issues was the major accomplishment of the workshops says Richard Johnson, president of the Alberta chapter of the Soil and Water Conservation Society (SWCS). The SWCS and the Alberta Institute of Agrologists (AIA) presented the travelling workshops in Grande Prairie, Barrhead, Vermilion, Olds and Vulcan. "I'm proudest of that, the phenomenal range of opinion that was presented," he says.

Balance was the key, he notes. "The controversial edges of the topic were exposed to a wide range of producers and others interested in sustainable agriculture." Compared to some other presentations, this workshop series didn't push one point of view at the expense of another, he adds. Presentations opened up questions about scientific, social and economic implications of sustainable agriculture and let participants discuss, argue and decide for themselves.

And even with the range of views, definitions and means of achieving sustainability, one message did come through Johnson says. He asked a group who attended the Vermilion workshop for their impression. Their answer was two words: soil conservation. "In order to protect all other things, it comes back to the soil," says Johnson.

Ross Gould, AIA president, echoes the soil conservation thread, especially in the context of agricultural evolution. One of the workshop speakers, a former consultant with the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), discussed sustainable agriculture in developing countries. "Her observation was agriculture tends to evolve towards sustainability or crash into desertification," says Gould, Alberta Agriculture's beef cattle and sheep branch animal management section head. "When she said that, it occurred to me that we haven't been farming the northern prairies, this particular environment, for much more than a hundred years, and we're still evolving.

(Cont'd)

Soil conservation basic in sustainable agriculture (cont'd)

"Although, for the past half century or so, there's probably little argument there's been too much summerfallow and loss of soil organic matter," he says. The symposia, he adds, were one of the ways to help the evolution towards sustainable agriculture.

John Toogood, chairman of the arrangements committee, says about half of the workshop audiences were producers. Lakeland and Olds College students accounted for 150 of the total registrations.

Each workshop heard two of three theme speakers. They were: Donald Rennie, retired University of Saskatchewan teacher and researcher; Stuart Hill, director of ecological agriculture projects at McGill University's Macdonald College: and, David Granastein, Washington-state based co-ordinator of a six state alternatives in dryland grain production project.

Proceedings highlighting the presentations of the theme speakers are available from the SWCS at 3814-103B Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T6J 2X9 or by calling David Neilson at 422-4385. A 30-minute video was also produced with a panel of workshop speakers. It's also available for loan on request from either organization.

Toogood says the workshops also provided excellent exposure for both the AIA and the SWCS as independent organizations interested in agricultural issues and as a source of information on those issues.

Financial support for the workshops was also received from the Canada-Alberta Soil Conservation Initiative (CASCI), Alberta Agriculture and the Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Administration (PFRA) with additional support from Ducks Unlimited, Conservation 2000 (Alberta Wheat Pool), the Alberta Cattle Commission, the United Grain Growers, Sherritt Gordon, Hoechst Canada and Unifarm.

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Contact: Ross Gould
427-5083

Richard Johnson
632-6761

John Toogood
420-7510

March 4, 1991
For immediate release

Ergot field test simple

Producers can do a simple field test to determine if sclerotia on a plant is ergot says an Alberta Agriculture toxicologist.

"Our toxicology laboratory has had a number of submissions and questions about ergot recently," says Roy Smith. "Many of the samples looked like ergot, but weren't. We've even had pea samples. Although sclerotia are found in peas, ergot is never associated with peas."

Ergot is a fungal disease. It infects many grasses including cereal grains replacing seeds in the plant head with hard black or purplish kernel-like structures called sclerotia. These ergot bodies contain alkaloids toxic to humans and livestock and also lower grain grades. Certain other non-ergot sclerotia are common, but don't contain the toxic alkaloids.

"Producers are right to be concerned about ergot," Smith says. "As little as 0.1 per cent ergot by weight can adversely effect animals. If there are three per cent or more ergot bodies in a sample of cereal feed, it shouldn't be fed to livestock."

To test suspected ergot requires simple ingredients: baking soda (bicarbonate of soda), boiling water and a white coffee cup. Put a small amount of baking soda, about 2 mL, and an equal amount of crushed suspected ergot in the white cup. Add about 25 mL of boiling water.

Only ergot sclerotia contains a dye that will color the water red or violet. "Two or three large ergot sclerotia will immediately give the color of a rose wine and after five minutes, with occasional stirring, the water will turn the color of a burgundy wine," says Smith.

Non-ergot sclerotia won't change the color of the water to red. Neither are they known to be toxic even in fairly large doses notes Smith.

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Contact: Dr. Roy Smith
427-2270

Coming Agricultural Events

Calgary Seed Fair and Hay Show
Stampede Park
Calgary ..... March 2-5
Don Stewart – 261-0271 – Calgary

Managing Agriculture for Profit
Kananaskis Lodge
Kananaskis Village ..... March 3-6
Trish Pannell – 556-4240 – Olds

Soil Conservation for the Future—Joint annual meeting of Saskatchewan Soil Conservation and Soil Conservation Canada
Queensbury Centre
Regina, Saskatchewan ..... March 7-9
SSCA – (306)787-0558 – Regina, Saskatchewan

Agriculture Week in Alberta ..... March 10-16

International Agriculture Links up with Space conference
Camrose Regional Exhibition
Camrose ..... March 10-12
Gordon Porteous – 672-3640 – Camrose

Chinook Applied Research Association (CARA) annual meeting
Youngstown Community Hall
Youngstown ..... March 12
Dianne Westerlund – 664-3777 – Oyen

Western Canadian Dairy seminar
Red Deer Lodge
Red Deer ..... March 13-15
Sheila Greenberg – 492-3029 – Edmonton

Alberta Alfalfa Seed Producers Association (Peace branch) meeting
Dunvegan Inn
Fairview ..... March 14-15
Raymond Wood – 624-1438 – Peace River

Little Royal Open House
Lakeland College, Vermilion campus
Vermilion ..... March 15-16
Barb Poulsen – 853-8544 – Vermilion

Introduction to commercial saskatoon berry production
Park Town Motor Hotel
Saskatoon, Saskatchewan ..... March 20-21
Grant Wood – (306)966-5866 – Saskatoon, Saskatchewan

Smoky River agricultural and trade show
Falher Arena
Falher ..... March 21-23
Roch Bremont – 837-2211 – Falher

7th annual bull test sale
Lakeland College Arena
Vermilion ..... March 30
Sandra Schneider – 853-8595 – Vermilion

Broadening our horizons—Canadian farm women in decision making
Skyline Hotel
Ottawa, Ontario ..... April 5-6
Canadian Federation of Agriculture office – (613)236-3633 – Ottawa, Ontario

National Soil Conservation Week ..... April 8-14
Barb Shackel – 422-4385 – Edmonton

Meat rabbit production seminar
University of Saskatchewan
Saskatoon, Saskatchewan ..... April 10-11
Glen Hoss – (306)966-5550 – Saskatoon, Saskatchewan

Provincial 4-H public speaking competition
Salon 1 & 2, Agricom, Edmonton Northlands
Edmonton ..... April 13
Anita Anderson – 427-2541 – Edmonton

Calgary Stampede Dairy Classic & Aggie Days
Stampede Park
Calgary ..... April 18 - 20
Agriculture Administration – 261-0162 – Calgary

Lakeland College Horse Sale
Nilsson Bros. Livestock Exchange
Vermilion ..... April 25
Gary Cooper – 853-8400 – Vermilion

Provincial 4-H Selections
Olds College
Olds ..... April 26-29
4-H branch – 427-2541 – Edmonton

Provincial highway clean-up ..... May 4
4-H branch – 427-2541 – Edmonton

Workshop on sustainable agriculture: economic perspectives and challenges
(sponsored by the Canadian Agricultural Economics and Farm Management Society and the Science Council of Canada)
Birchwood Inn
Winnipeg, Manitoba ..... May 5-7
S. Michaels – (204)474-9436 – Winnipeg, Manitoba

70th annual Feeder's Day (poultry day)
University of Alberta Edmonton Research Station (115 St. and 61 Ave.)
Edmonton ..... May 31
Frank Robinson – 492-3242 – Edmonton

Alberta Dairy Congress
Black Gold Centre
Leduc ..... May 31-June 1
Iris Yanish – 986-8108 – Leduc

Alberta Pork Congress
Westerner Exposition
Red Deer ..... June 11-13
Pat Kennedy or Ruth Leader – 340-5307 – Red Deer

Gelbvieh Association of Alberta Field Day and Southern Alberta Breeders Tour
Fort McLeod ..... June 15-16
Phillip Kaiser – 553-2686 – Fort McLeod

Alberta Cowboy Poetry gathering '91
Community Hall
Pincher Creek ..... June 14-16
Anne Stevich – 627-4437 – Pincher Creek; Arlene Boisjoli – 628-2405 – Lundbreck

Alberta Cattle Commission semi-annual meeting
Calgary ..... June 18-19
Ron Glaser – 275-4400 – Calgary

Women of Unifarm annual convention
Camrose ..... June 18-20
Willow Webb – 451-5912 – Edmonton

8th International Rapeseed Congress
University of Saskatchewan
Saskatoon, Saskatchewan ..... July 9 - 11
J.M. Bell – (306)975-7066 – Saskatoon, Saskatchewan; Keith Downey – (306)975-7014 – Saskatoon, Saskatchewan

1991 Agricultural Service Board provincial tour
Camrose Regional Exhibition grounds are headquarters
County of Camrose ..... July 15-18
Paul King – 672-4765 – Camrose

6th University of Saskatchewan Hort Week
University of Saskatchewan
Saskatoon, Saskatchewan ..... July 22-26
Bruce Hobin – (306)966-5551 – Saskatoon, Saskatchewan

Canadian Hatchery Federation annual convention
Kananaskis Lodge
Kananaskis Village ..... August 12-15
Jim Haggins – 546-2445 – Linden

International Quilters Conference
Banff ..... August 30-September 2
Bonnie Murdoch – 245-4944 – Calgary

Agri-Trade Farm Equipment and Services Exposition
Westerner Park
Red Deer ..... November 6-9
Pat Kennedy – 347-4491 – Red Deer

Alberta Cattle Commission annual general meeting
Edmonton ..... December 2-4
Ron Glaser – 275-4400 – Calgary

Coming agricultural events

- Do you know of any provincial (Alberta), national or international agricultural meetings, conferences or conventions coming in **June, July, August or later in 1991**?Are there any events omitted in the attached list?

- Please state the name of the event.

- What are the dates?

- Where is the event being held? Include city or town; hotel and convention centre if known.

- Please give the name, city or town, and phone number of a contact person for each event listed.

- This form has been completed by (organization):

Please return this form by May 24, 1991 to:
Agri-News Editor
Information Services Division
J.G. O'Donoghue Building
7000 - 113 Street, Edmonton, Alberta
T6H 5T6
(Coming Agricultural Events is published four times a year in Agri-News.
The next edition will be printed June 3, 1991)

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Agri-News briefs

GLOBALIZATION TRADE REALITY

Globalization isn't something on the horizon, but is already a reality participants at a Western Canadian food industry conference in Edmonton were told. Doug Radke, Alberta Agriculture deputy minister for planning and development, was one of many speakers who addressed the topic of globalization and the food industry. "Globalization," Radke said, "presents us with an opportunity to re-examine what we do, to confront change and to forage ahead a stronger, more self-reliant industry." As a province reliant on export, Alberta and Alberta companies have a major stake in competing in that trade atmosphere. Success can be achieved, Radke said, by companies looking beyond borders for opportunities, looking beyond tradition and exploiting the province's unique advantages. Conference sessions included an update on GATT, other multi national trade issues, processors getting into the global market and world marketplace realities. Proceedings from the conference will be available from the Rural Education Development Association (REDA) at 14815-119 Avenue, Edmonton, T5L 2N9 or call 451-5959.

4-H SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION DEADLINES

4-H scholarship applications are available and the deadline for most applications is July 15. Earlier deadlines apply for the Canadian National Exhibition (CNE) scholarship and the Petro-Canada youth leadership award. The CNE scholarship deadline is May 15. Essays and applications for the Petro-Canada award must be received by June 1. For more information, contact Alberta Agriculture's 4-H branch in Edmonton at 422-4444.

HORSE BREEDER'S SCHOOL MARCH 15-17

A three-day hands-on course for the new horse breeder or breeders looking for an update to improve their operation will be held at Olds College March 15 through 17. The Horse Breeder's School provides both experience and basic

(Cont'd)

Agri-News briefs (cont'd)

HORSE BREEDER'S SCHOOL MARCH 15-17 (cont'd)
knowledge to help participants plan facilities and manage mare and stallions for maximum reproductive efficiency. Topics at the schools include: the estrous cycle, seasonal influences, controlling the estrous cycle, estrus detection, mare management, semen collection, artificial insemination, facility planning and feeding. For more information, contact Olds College extension services at 556-8344.

LITTLE ROYAL AT LAKELAND COLLEGE IN VERMILION

The Little Royal Weekend March 15 through 17 at Lakeland College is an opportunity to explore the Vermilion campus during the annual open house and special events weekend. Mini-courses, college rodeo, 4-H judging competition and horse show are among the events. For more information, contact Barb Poulsen in Vermilion at 853-8528.

OUTLOOK CONFERENCE POSTPONED UNTIL FALL'91

Accent, the annual provincial outlook conference for grains, oilseeds and livestock, has been postponed until the autumn 1991. Previous Accent conferences have been held in the late winter. The conference timing change was prompted by some recent national and international events including the GATT talks and the new safety net program. Conference organizers hope the delay will mean many of the policy issues will have been resolved or concluded, so the quality of information the conference provides to producers is improved. In the interim, farmers interested in market outlooks are encouraged to contact Alberta Agriculture's market analysis branch in Edmonton at 427-5387.

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AGRI-NEWS

March 11, 1991

For immediate release

CANADIANA
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Phone: (403) 427-2121

March 11, 1991
For immediate release

Saving snowmelt may make the difference in 1991

Last fall soil moisture levels across the province were as low as any time in the 1980s, so capturing this spring's snowmelt may be a critical part for crop success in 1991 say two Alberta Agriculture specialists.

The difference between crop success and crop failure in southern Alberta is dependent on soil moisture reserves. In central and northwestern Alberta, soil moisture reserves help crops get an early start and can make the difference between ordinary and bumper yields.

"Although soil moisture can improve with the right kind of snowmelt and timely early spring rains, there are ways to conserve your snowmelt and increase the probability of getting significant moisture into your soil," says Al Howard, soil moisture specialist. "Whatever method you use, the key is capturing snowmelt and runoff when you can. This year may be one when it's especially critical to get all the moisture you can."

Trapping snow and slowing the rate of snowmelt runoff can improve soil moisture levels. The best snow trap is standing stubble. "Farmers who retained stubble on their field last fall have the best opportunity to hold snow on the field and get snowmelt water into the soil," says Howard.

If stubble is short or worked down, farmers can try snow ridging to increase the depth of snow on their fields suggests Neil MacAlpine, farm water management engineer. Ridging however, is less effective than using standing stubble to trap snow.

First, there must be a reasonable depth of snow on the field to make the ridging technique work. Ridges should be spaced every 12 feet to maximize capture of drifting snow. Ridging can be done with either a front-mounted "V" plow or a straight blade plow. Two passes, each from an opposite direction are recommended to make the ridge.

Spring backflood irrigation is another method that makes uses of spring snowmelt. Runoff is held on a flat well-drained field until soils thaw out, so the "flood" water can soak into the soil.

(Cont'd)

"A large, flat field that has been improved in the past by some drainage is the best candidate for spring backflood irrigation," says MacAlpine. "A good sized watershed also is key to providing enough runoff to flood the field." Soils must also be irrigable, without salts or hardpan. As well, a control structure to safely hold back and then release the water is necessary.

Spring backflood irrigation is common in some parts of southern Alberta, but is beginning to appear as demonstration projects in central and northern Alberta. One example is the Golden Glow project near Millet in the County of Leduc. "Farmers in these regions are starting to appreciate the value of turning 'nuisance' snowmelt into a valuable on-farm resource," says MacAlpine.

Managing snow moisture also includes being ready for snowmelt. Ensure channels into dugouts are cleared and ready to capture runoff. Temporary snow dams at dugouts and culverts can send water past the dugout.

Both home quarter and pasture dugouts need to be checked says MacAlpine. "Pastures without grass are a serious problem, but pastures without a water supply are nearly useless." He adds some farmers are experimenting with snow fences, placing them around the dugout area to trap snow and then direct the runoff into the dugout to increase water levels.

At the same time farmers plan to capture snowmelt, Howard says they shouldn't over estimate how much water they get from snow. Approximately 10 inches of snow melts down to one inch of water.

The soil's condition, either wet or dry, when it freezes also has a bearing on how much of snowmelt can soak in. "If the soil was moist when it froze, then the pores are full of ice and it's harder for snowmelt to penetrate and soak in. On the other hand, if soil is dry when it freezes, has a rougher surface from tillage or if the soil is cracked, chances are better snowmelt can recharge soil moisture," he says. Howard cautions while fall tillage can enhance snowmelt infiltration, it's more important to keep standing stubble to trap snow.

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Contact: Al Howard
381-5861

Neil MacAlpine
422-6530

March 11, 1991
For immediate release

Spring start for provincial scope soil phosphorus study

An Alberta Agriculture research team hopes a new province-wide field study of phosphorus soil tests will eventually help farmers spend their fertilizer dollars more wisely.

"We hope to determine which tests can best estimate plant-available phosphorus for a number of crops on a wide range of Alberta soils," says Ross McKenzie, a soil fertility specialist in Lethbridge. "It's also the first time in 20 years province-wide soil test studies will be conducted."

McKenzie is project manager and co-ordinator of the three-year study. Doug Penney, Elston Solberg and Len Kryzanowksi of the soils branch in Edmonton and Garry Coy, Fairview regional soils specialist, are the other team members.

Starting this spring, and for the following two springs, 42 new field tests will be run from the Montana border to township 91 in the Peace River region. At least three crops--including wheat, barley and canola--will be grown at each site. An additional six long-term sites on soils with high phosphate levels will be part of the study. At these sites, phosphate drawdown by crops will be monitored to determine how many years it takes before crops begin to respond to added phosphorus fertilizers.

"The primary reason for studying phosphorus is that soil test calibration research for making fertilizer recommendations hasn't been an on-going process in Alberta," says McKenzie. "As a result, soil testing laboratories don't have an up-to-date data base for their fertilizer recommendations."

Phosphorus is the second most limiting nutrient in Alberta soils. "For this reason Alberta farmers spend approximately $100 million dollars on phosphate fertilizer annually. Results of this new field study will hopefully help farmers best spend their fertilizer dollar," he says.

This project follows up two previous studies by McKenzie. One was a four-year study of phosphorus cycling in Alberta soils to determine what happens to phosphorus fertilizer.

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The other, a greenhouse study, used 64 soils from across the province to evaluate eight different soil testing methods and their ability to predict crop response (wheat and barley) to added phosphorus fertilizer. "In the new field research project we'll further evaluate and calibrate five of the most promising of these test methods on a very wide range of Alberta soils," he says.

At the study's conclusion, McKenzie says the team hopes to identify a lab test or tests that best correlate phosphorus fertilizer use and crop response. Final results will be used to develop response curves for wheat, barley and canola in all the major soil types found in Alberta.

The broad scope of the study is an aspect of the research. For the first time in two decades a fertilizer study will have a provincial scope. Its field tests will also take in more than 20 agro-ecological areas. "This will give an even better breakdown to the farmer about what works in a soil type--his local soil type. As well, it will look at both dryland and irrigated acres," he says.

Over $100,000 will be contributed to the research team each year for the next three years. Financial supporters include the Alberta Agricultural Research Institute, the Alberta Canola Producers Commission, Esso Chemical Canada, Sherritt Gordon, Western Co-operative Fertilizers, Cominco Fertilizers and the Western Grains Research Foundation (WGRF).

McKenzie's project was one of 12 projects selected for funding by the WGRF in 1991. It was chosen out of 76 applications the WGRF received from Prairie researchers.

McKenzie says the soil test calibration for phosphorus is high on his priority list. "But, province-wide research for other nutrients such as nitrogen, potassium, sulfur and micronutrients also needs attention. The more research dollars we have, the more we can do."

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March 4, 1991
For immediate release

Adding fibre to your diet easy, good for you

Fibre is a key word in a healthy diet, but still baffles some people who aren't sure what dietary fibre is says Alberta Agriculture's provincial food and nutrition specialist.

"People have been told about dietary fibre's unique role in helping to prevent and treat several of today's 'lifestyle' diseases. But, they can't take advantage of fibre and eat what they should, unless they know what fibre-rich foods aare and how much they should eat," says Aileen Whitmore.

Dietary fibre comes from plants. It's the part of food that can't be broken down by the human digestive system. Fibre isn't a nutrient, but is the string holding the nutrients in food together. There are two types of fibre, and unfortunately, she says, few food labels distinguish between them.

Insoluble fibre--found in wheat bran, whole wheat and most other whole grains, plus most vegetables and fruits--is good for your digestive system and may help prevent cancer of the colon. Soluble fibre is beneficial to digestion, too. As well, it can help lower cholesterol. Water soluble fibre can be found in pulses, vegetables and oat bran. Pulses are the edible seeds of annual legumes (beans, peas and lentils). "Pulses are excellent sources of fibre and are grown right here in Alberta. Southern growers produce pinto, great northern, pink and red mexican beans and green lentils," she notes.

Including more fibre in our diets is what most people need to do. Health and Welfare Canada recommends 25 to 30 grams per day for adults. "Translated, that means double the intake of the average Canadian," Whitmore says, "But, upping your fibre intake is easier than you might think." For example, one cup of baked beans or bean soup, or two slices of whole wheat bread boosts your fibre count by 15 grams.

Setting small, achievable goals is important when increasing fibre intake she says. "Start substituting a food you currently eat with a similar food higher in fibre. For example, a raisin bran muffin for a cake-type muffin. Add a bean or lentil main dish at least once a week to your diet."

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Contact: Aileen Whitmore
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March 11, 1991
For immediate release

Enough selenium is enough, but what's too much?

Many producers might not be aware the selenium content in a number of feed supplements has changed says an Alberta Agriculture nutrition specialist.

The Feeds Act regulations were amended in 1989 allowing for higher selenium levels. As a result, the selenium content in many of the available supplements, minerals and salt products have a higher selenium content than they used to.

"A producer may be feeding considerably more selenium even though he's using the same style of supplement he's used for years," says Barry Yaremcio of the beef cattle and sheep branch. "These changes emphasize the importance of being aware of how much selenium you're providing to your animals. You may have to modify your selenium supplement program to account for these higher levels."

For example, in the old regulations, a fortified trace mineralized salt could contain up to 25 mg of selenium per kilogram. Since July 1989, the new regulations have allowed the same salt to contain up to five times more selenium.

Yaremcio emphasizes it's important producers re-evaluate their supplement program to avoid any potential problems. "If you have been using multiple sources of selenium to provide the necessary amount of selenium of the old style products, it might not be necessary to use as many now because of the higher fortification levels," he says.

Feeding more selenium to livestock isn't necessarily better he warns. "It's possible to go too far with selenium supplementation. Keep in mind excess selenium is toxic to the animal."

For help reevaluating their selenium supplement program, Yaremcio suggests producers contact an Alberta Agriculture district agriculturist, regional livestock specialist, nutritionist or veterinarian.

(Cont'd)

Enough selenium is enough, but what's too much? (cont'd)

Chronic selenium toxicity symptoms are identical to selenium deficiency notes Yaremcio. Symptoms include poor reproductive performance, abortions, weak calves or calves not able to suckle and animals in poor condition. In severe or acute toxicity, animals slough hooves or hair on the tail head, and can have heart attacks.

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Contact: Barry Yaremcio
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Selenium allowances in feed stuffs	mg/kg
Complete feeds--all species	0.3
rabbits	0.1
Milk replacer	0.3

Allowable daily intake levels	mg/head/day
Beef and dairy	3.0
Sheep	0.7

Free choice trace minerals (mineralized salt and mineral feeds)	mg/kg
Salt --beef and dairy	120
--sheep	90
Range mineral	30

March 11, 1991
For immediate release

Start bedding plants from seed

Winter's last snows may be falling, but some gardeners are already planning their summer vegetables and flowers.

"It's not too early to have ordered seeds or to check out what's offered at local seed stores, greenhouses or garden centres," says Pam North, information officer at the Alberta Tree Nursery and Horticulture Centre.

North says the biggest temptation enthusiastic gardeners have with starting their own bedding plants is starting too early. "You can end up with weak and spindly plants that won't transplant well or be as attractive."

She advises checking the Alberta Horticultural Guide for annual flowers' seeding dates. Guides are available from Alberta Agriculture district offices and the Alberta Tree Nursery and Horticultural Centre, R.R. 6, Edmonton, Alberta, T5B 4K3.

Growing your own bedding plants starts with seeding. Start with flats or containers with good drainage. Household containers such as yogurt containers and egg or milk cartons can be recycled as flats she suggests. "But", she adds, "remember to make drainage holes in the bottom."

A soil-based or soilless mix can be used. "Buy a mix, or mix your own at home," says the Alberta Agriculture horticulturist. "A good all-purpose mix is one part pasteurized loam, one part peat moss and one part perlite or vermiculite."

Fill containers with the growing media and tamp down lightly. The soil surface should be even. Leave a half-inch of space at the top of the container. Spread seeds evenly over the soil surface or in rows. Don't seed too heavily because if crowded, plants are more likely to be spindly.

Cover seeds to a depth twice their diameter. For example, a quarter-inch sized seed should be covered with a half inch of vermiculite or moist growing media. Then, water with a fine mist or soak the flats in a basin of water until the soil is moist.

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Start bedding plants from seed (cont'd)

Bedding plants should be grown in high light conditions notes North. Windows with a southern or eastern exposure are preferable. If growing the plants under artificial light, use one warm white and one cool white fluorescent tube.

Once the plants germinate they should be pricked out. "Pricking out means transferring seedlings to individual containers for maximum growth. This process should start when seedlings have their first set of 'true' leaves. This is their second set of leaves," she says. Lift plants and gently separate their root systems. Replant into individual containers such as peat pots or cell packs. Then, fertilize with a starter solution such as 10-52-10.

For more information about growing bedding plants, contact North at 422-1789.

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Contact: Pam North
422-1789

March 11, 1991
For immediate release

Financing announced for Centennial Food Corp.

Agriculture Minister Ernie Isley has announced the province has approved a $15 million term loan to Centennial Food Corp. of Calgary.

The term loan replaces $25 million in provincial government loan guarantees committed to Centennial in 1988. The financing will be used to retire debt outstanding in the loan guarantee.

"The loan represents a refinancing of the government's commitment and does not involve any additional exposure to the Province. Centennial has recently made the decision to exit the beef slaughter business, and this restructuring of the company's financial position will allow it to refocus its operations," says Isley.

Centennial Food Corp., formerly Centennial Packers Ltd., is an Alberta owned and operated food processing and distribution company founded in 1967. The company currently employs more than 360 people. Centennial previously announced its intention to shift its concentration to further value-added meat product processing and new product development.

Further to the announcement, the Meat Industry Task Force said the province doesn't expect to provide any additional, extensive financial support to red meat industry projects. The Alberta government will continue to encourage industry upgrading, market development, expansion of value-added processing and other objectives consistent with the government's goals of developing and diversifying the economy.

"The future viability of Alberta's agricultural industry rests upon a fully-developed and competitive world-class meat sector," adds Isley. "Alberta has helped the industry adapt to the changing world marketplace. The industry is now well-positioned to meet future challenges without the need for further, extensive government support."

The Province of Alberta has indicated it isn't interested in taking direct ownership positions, nor in increasing its involvement in existing ventures. With respect to Gainers, the government's stated objective is to return the firm to the private sector as soon as possible.

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For immediate release

Agri-News briefs

SOUND-DEADENING BOX RELIEVES NEIGHBOURS' EARS

Two Medicine Hat farmers have an ingenious way to lessen the noise from farm irrigation pump stations. Their solution for noisy internal combustion engines is a buried sound-deadening box. Wayne Schelenker, a St. Mary River Irrigation District board member, built a modified version of the box with financial assistance from his country residential neighbours. Schlenker had a hole--two metres by one metre by 1.5 m deep) excavated and lined the sides with concrete cinder block. Cross-bracing was used to prevent walls from collapsing. He covered the hole with a metal sheet and then backfilled it with 0.3 m of soil. Engine exhaust pipes enter the box at one end of the hole and three 0.4 m curved vent pipes protrude at the other end. Now when standing by his operating pumping unit, the only sound is the whirl of fan blades. "I would never have believed it possible," says Schlenker. Materials costs about $225. Schlenker's labour and the cost of the backhoe donated by a neighbour aren't included in that total. For more information, contact Schlenker at 13 Rice Driver SE, Medicine Hat, T1A 8G8 or call 526-3215.

CARROT COLORED CAULIFLOWER?

With consumers just getting used to the green-tinged cauliflower in the produce section, American researchers have come up with another color: orange marmalade. The pale orange coloring is from carotene provided by a gene originally found in a mutant cauliflower head. It was discovered in a Canadian grower's field of white cauliflower near Toronto. Scientists at Cornell University in New York State crossed it with a conventional white-curd cauliflower to produce an unusually colored, but otherwise perfectly shaped, cauliflower head. U.S. tests showed the orange cauliflower contained a lot of carotene, the same substance that gives carrots their color and name. Carotene is converted into vitamin A when eaten. Belinda Choban, vegetable crop extension specialist with the Alberta Agriculture Tree Nursery and Horticulture Centre, reports seeds for the orange cauliflower should be

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CARROT COLORED CAULIFLOWER? (cont'd)

generally available in 1992. Choban says seed companies report that unlike green and purple headed-types, the orange curds retain their color during cooking. The taste, is reported as, "surprisingly good". Contact Choban in Edmonton at 422-1789 or Paul Ragan in Brooks at 362-3391 for more information.

WORLD TURNED UPSIDE DOWN--KLINCK LECTURE SERIES

The industrialized world isn't immune to the problems of developing countries. That's one theme of the 1990-91 Klinck Lecture Series. Ivan Head, president of the International Development Centre in Ottawa, will present "A World Turned Upside Down" in Calgary (Highlander Hotel, March 25), Edmonton (Edmonton Inn, March 26) and Grande Prairie (Golden Inn, March 27). The Klinck lecture series was established in 1966 to provide Canadians with an opportunity to hear outstanding speakers on how national and international developments affect Canadian and world agriculture. For more information about the lectures, contact: Edmonton co-ordinator John Stephen at 986-6895; Grande Prairie co-ordinator Bill Charlton at 538-6500; or, Calgary co-ordinator Barry Bennett at 250-7979.

PORK PRODUCERS HOLDING DELEGATE ELECTION MEETINGS

The Alberta Pork Producers Development Corporation will be holding meetings between March 20 and 27 to elect five delegates and one director in districts one, three, five, seven and nine. Eligible producers may vote once for a delegate and a director of their choice at any one of five meetings in their district. Meetings are as follows. Distict one: Vulcan and Brooks, Mar. 25; Taber and Lethbridge, Mar. 26; and, Medicine Hat, Mar. 27. District three: Wainwright, Mar. 20; Daysland and Castor, Mar. 22; and, Bashaw and Camrose, Mar. 26. District five: Kitscoty, Mar. 20; Tofield, Mar. 21; Myrnam, Mar. 25; Vegreville, Mar. 26; and, Willingdon, Mar. 28. District seven: LaCorey and St. Vincent, Mar. 20; Radway, Mar. 21; Athabasca and Smoky Lake, March 22. District nine: Peace River and Fairview, Mar. 20; Debolt, Mar. 21; Grande Prairie, Mar. 26; and Spirit River, Mar. 27. For nomination and other information, contact the pork producers office at 474-8288 in Edmonton.

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Phone: (403) 427-2121

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International wheat demand key, not GRIP target revenues

While the outlook for international wheat prices looks brighter than last spring, this July's initial Canadian Wheat Board (CWB) prices are likely to be fairly conservative says an Alberta Agriculture market analyst.

"The most likely range for the 1991-92 initial 1 CWRS price is in the $110 to $120 per tonne range (basis Thunder Bay/ Pacific coast). That's $15 to $20 per tonne lower than the current crop year," says Charlie Pearson. The most probable Alberta based payment would be between $90 and $105 per tonne for 1 CWRS and between $70 and $85 for 3 CWRS.

One market factor producers should be aware of is a large Canadian wheat carryover from the current crop year. The estimated 13 million tonne or more carryover is almost twice last summer's level. A large percentage of the carryover will remain on farms.

As well, he says, the recently announced Gross Revenue Insurance Program (GRIP) will likely maintain Canadian wheat acreage this spring despite the international price signals telling farmers to do just the opposite. Wheat quotas will be tight again in the next crop year. The fate of the CWB's interest free cash advance program is uncertain, and an advance payment from the GRIP program is unlikely until late fall or early winter.

"The implication of all of this is that if you chose to grow wheat because of the revenue protection program, you'd better have the cash flow resources to carry you well into 1992," says Pearson.

Pearson says the GRIP indexed moving average price (IMAP) spreads between different wheat classes will have major consequences on seeding intentions. "For example, 2 CW amber durum wheat has a $13 per tonne premium over 2 CW hard red spring wheat. If producers in durum areas use this as a market signal, Prairie durum acreage will increase. However, world demand for this extra durum might not be there.

"Although GRIP provides a target revenue per acre, it has nothing to say about international demand for the different classes of wheat or the CWB's ability to sell it at reasonable levels."

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Contact: Charlie Pearson
427-5386

March 18, 1991
For immediate release

Management and marketing still farmer priorities

Grain and oilseed marketing skills are still important factors in farmers obtaining their best price, even with the new Gross Revenue Insurance Program (GRIP) providing revenue protection says an Alberta Agriculture market analyst.

"GRIP should be treated as an insurance program in the coming crop year," says Charlie Pearson, "The farmer who operates his farm with good management and marketing skills will have a more viable operation than his neighbour who changes his practices to farm by GRIP alone."

Pearson says farmers still need to use normal marketing tools such as their break even price and consider their cash flow and timing of sales. "In the coming year, the target revenue you can get from revenue protection and risk factors such as low soil moisture reserves may signal you to grow wheat.

"On the other hand, the Canadian Wheat Board's wheat quotas this fall are likely to be very tight and it may be very difficult to sell enough wheat to meet cash flow needs early in the crop year," says Pearson.

Alberta farmers have four choices. They can opt for GRIP's revenue protection alone, can combine it with crop insurance for this trial year, take crop insurance by itself or not participate in either program. If they participate, premiums are shared by the producer and provincial and federal governments.

GRIP allows farmers to lock in a target revenue per acre. This target revenue is based on a 70 per cent 15-year indexed moving average price (IMAP) times either the farmer's district average crop insurance yields or his actual yields if he has had individual coverage crop insurance.

If the producer chooses both crop insurance and revenue protection options, the program payout is based on his target revenue minus his calculated market return per acre for the crop year. The calculated revenue is based on his actual farm yields times a Prairie average price for the base grade of the eligible crop. If the farmer's calculated revenue is below his target revenue, he collects the difference in a payout.

"From a management standpoint, the producer needs to understand that his marketing decisions won't influence the Prairie average price. If he can get a better price with an effective marketing program, then the improvement over the Prairie average price will increase his profit.

"On the other hand, if the producer does a poor job of marketing his crop and receives prices below the Prairie average, his gross return per acre will be below his target revenue," says Pearson.

For example, Farmer A sells his barley for an average $2/bu. Farmer B's average is $1.60 and the Prairie average price for the crop year is $1.80/bu. In both cases target revenue is $120 per acre--a 55 bu./ac. crop insurance yield times the 70 per cent indexed moving average price of $2.18/bu. Assume both farmers have an average yield of 50 bu./ac., so their calculated program revenues are $90/ac. The revenue top-up payout in both cases is $30/ac.

Gross return per acre is the total from actual sales plus any payouts from the revenue protection program. Farmer A's actual return was $100 per acre ($2/bu. times 50 bu./ac.). His gross return, with the program payout of $30/ac., is $130/ac. Farmer B's per acre actual return was $80. He also receives the $30/ac. program payout for a gross return of $110 per acre. Farmer A got $10 per acre more than his target revenue while Farmer B is $10 below his target.

"Similar examples can be worked out for farmers who get grades above the CRIP base grade or have location advantages," adds Pearson. "The barley grower who gets a malt grade will improve his actual gross revenue per acre well above his calculated program revenue. Southern Alberta barley growers can expect gross revenues per acre above the calculated program revenue as a result of the traditional premiums in this market."

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Contact: Charlie Pearson
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March 18, 1991
For Immediate Release

"Key" is solution to decreasing farm accidents

Shutting off farm machinery is the key to reducing the number of farm injuries occurring every crop year says Associate Agriculture Minister Shirley McClellan.

"In a 13-year summary of injury accidents and farm fatalities in Alberta, 32 per cent of all injury accidents resulted from repairs and maintenance work," says McClellan. "We hope to lessen that figure substantially through the launch of the 'Your Key to unlocking a safe 1991' farm safety campaign."

The campaign joins Alberta Agriculture with John Deere Limited to encourage farmers and machinery operators to shut their equipment off before tending to repairs.

"We believe in a common-sense approach to farm safety," says Lawrence Ruud, general sales manager of John Deere Limited. "By stressing to farm machinery operators, both men and women, that simply taking the time to shut down their tractors when attending to repairs, or checking for a problem, will help to decrease the number of farm fatalities and injuries in 1991."

The safety campaign revolves around a simple key-shaped sticker with the message 'Leaving? Take Me Too!'. It's designed to remind farmers the importance of turning off their equipment before tending to repairs. Enough stickers have been printed to reach 10,000 homes through the rural school system. Children will have the opportunity, and be encouraged through a contest, to place the sticker where they think it will best remind the machinery operator to 'turn it off'.

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AGRI-NEWS Alberta Agriculture, Print Media Branch

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Sweet success for Sunstream

With more gold medals than Wayne Gretzky has Stanley cups, Les Scrivener does have something to smile about.

The six gold medals are for his Sunstream Honey Fruit products and were bestowed by the Chefs in America, a prestigious group of chefs from the best known restaurants and hotels in the U.S. And like Wayne Gretzky now, Scrivener's achievements have a California connection.

The California Culinary Academy nominated Sunstream products after seeing and tasting them at a western restaurant show in San Francisco last August. Scrivener's company makes jams with honey rather than sugar or artificial sweeteners.

California, and more generally the U.S. West coast, is the focal point of Scrivener's marketing efforts. In the next ten weeks Scrivener and the Sunstream honey jams will be at four trade shows. Three shows are in conjunction with the Chefs in America--a follow-up showcase of winning products--and will take him to Los Angeles, San Francisco and Seattle. Another stop is at an international fancy food show.

Scrivener is confident about his products, a confidence built on the response he's received to his jam. "When people taste it, they say, 'We want it'," he says. While pleased and encouraged with his golden wins and marketing successes, Scrivener says he won't hesitate to take on new places and ways to sell his honey fruit products. "To boldly go where no jam has gone before," is how he describes his mission. And the ring of space adventure could be a reality. NASA astronauts in Florida are currently testing his unique honey jams.

As well, Scrivener will soon launch a new line of "cowboy jams". They'll be available, he says, in time for the Calgary Stampede.

His major challenges now are distribution and re-entry in the retail market. He describes this stage of his business as "building a trapline". One catch is a deal with the 13-store Gelson's chain in California.

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AGRI-NEWS Alberta Agriculture, Print Media Branch

Sweet success for Sunstream (cont'd)

Scrivener tried the retail route first, but the specialized product was pricey for chain grocery store shelves. Instead, he focused on a white tablecloth market--restaurants and hotels. Now branching out, and back into retail, his efforts are focused at gourmet delis and an upscale gift market, he says. Part of his marketing will be at Alberta gift shows.

Sunstream's success in the California market isn't surprising says Gaylene Thomson, an Alberta Agriculture trade director. Another Alberta company now has the largest share of the honey market in northern California. Canadian products are viewed as wholesome and pure with a high quality reputation. "But more particularly," says Thomson, "is the Californian taste and outlook for something new and unique, and their willingness to pay for it. They'll 'die for' something new and to be first to have it."

Sunstream is five years old and has been in its Calgary location for just over a year. Scrivener has had assistance from Alberta Agriculture with his product development starting with the Leduc Food Processing Development Centre, then from the marketing services division with labelling and packaging and, finally from the market development division in lining up trade show appearances and other business contacts.

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Contact: Les Scrivener
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Gaylene Thomson
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March 18, 1991
For immediate release

Environmental benefit from "green" Alberta sheep

Alberta sheep, instead of herbicides, are controlling vegetation that competes with seedling trees in reforested areas of British Columbia.

"Thousands of Alberta sheep are currently being contracted to browse clearcuts in the interior of British Columbia and on Vancouver Island," says Kim Stanford, a sheep specialist with Alberta Agriculture.

As a means of controlling brush and weeds that shade young trees, browsing sheep is both less costly and more environmentally friendly than other vegetation control methods she says. Manual brushing can cost between $400 and $3,000 per hectare. Using sheep is also more environmentally acceptable than spraying herbicides or prescribed burning.

Foresters were initially concerned sheep would damage young trees. "But with proper management, damage to trees is minimal," says Stanford. Grazing plans start by removing 50 to 60 per cent brush cover on each logging block, followed by re-grazing the area 30 to 45 days later to achieve 75 to 80 per cent brush removal. Stanford says this maximizes both control of competing vegetation and sheep weight gains, while minimizing damage to seedlings.

Stanford cautions not all sheep are suitable for forestry grazing. "Sheep must be in good condition and free from disease in order to survive the stresses of forestry grazing."

Flocking breeds such as Rambouillets are preferred for management ease, she adds. As well, weight gains by sheep on clearcuts are reduced compared to those for sheep on good pasture in Alberta.

"Forestry grazing by sheep is still in its early stages in Western Canada, but the potential benefits for both the environment and sheep industry can't be ignored," she says.

For more information about forestry grazing, contact Stanford in Airdrie at 948-8517, Wray Whitmore in Edmonton at 427-5083 or any Alberta Agriculture sheep technician.

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Contact: Kim Stanford
948-8517

Wray Whitmore
427-5083

AGRI-NEWS Alberta Agriculture, Print Media Branch

March 18, 1991
For immediate release

February's weather warm and dry

Alberta's average monthly temperature was well above normal and total precipitation below normal says Alberta Agriculture's weather specialist.

"February's average monthly temperature, as recorded at 31 weather stations across the province, was 7.6°C warmer than the average for 1951 through 1980," says Peter Dzikowski of the conservation and development branch in Edmonton.

The same weather stations averaged about 16 mm of precipitation, slightly below the long-term average says Dzikowski. The highest precipitation total during February was the 34.4 mm recorded in High Level. This was 116 per cent above its normal monthly total of 15.9 mm. Rocky Mountain House received 30.5 mm, 56 per cent above the norm of 19.6 mm.

At the dry end of the precipitation scale, Grande Prairie received 8.8 mm of precipitation, about 37 per cent of its long-term normal.

High Level also recorded the coldest average temperature for the month at -13.3°C. "Still that average was about five degrees above the normal," says Dzikowski.

"In general, February was extremely mild, about five to 10 degrees above normal," he adds.

Lethbridge recorded the warmest average temperature for the month at 2.5°C. That was 7.9 degrees above the normal. Drumheller was 10.5 degrees above its normal, recording an average temperature of 0.1°C.

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Contact: Peter Dzikowski
422-4385

March 18, 1991
For immediate release

Alberta Agriculture appointments

NEW SWINE SPECIALIST IN THE NORTHEAST

Irene Wenger is the new Alberta Agriculture northeast regional swine specialist. She will be based in Vermilion. Wenger brings seven years experience in the Western Canadian agriculture industry to her new position, including managing a farrowing unit in a 250-sow farrow-to-finish operation, representing a breeding stock company and working in the feed industry. "As regional specialist, I will provide technical support and information to the department's district staff and farm clients in all aspects of hog production," she says. Wenger was born and raised in Alberta and graduated from the University of Alberta's BSc in agriculture program in 1983. She is currently completing her masters thesis on neonatal pig management and nutrition at the University of Saskatchewan. She can be contacted in Vermilion at 853-8109.

NEW RURAL SERVICES DIRECTOR

John Tackaberry is the new director of Alberta Agriculture's rural services division. In his new duties, Tackaberry is responsible for five branches--engineering services, agricultural education, 4-H, home economics and agricultural and community services. Tackaberry brings 20 years of experience in the department to his new position. He joined the department in 1971 as a district agriculturist and worked in Valleyview, Wainwright, Vermilion and Lamont. In 1980 Tackberry became the department's northwest regional director, the position he held until his recent new appointment. He can be reached in Edmonton at 427-2409.

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AGRI-NEWS Alberta Agriculture, Print Media Branch

March 18, 1991
For immediate release

Agri-News briefs

PROVINCIAL 4-H SPEAK-OFF APRIL 13

The public is invited to come and listen to some of the province's best young public speakers at the annual 4-H speaking finals in Edmonton on April 13. Fourteen 4-H members from across Alberta will present their speeches to their audience and six judges. Each participant will give a prepared and an impromptu speech. The general topic of the prepared speeches is given to participants one week prior to the final competition. Contestants advance to the provincial finals through club, district and regional competitions. The speak-off will be held in Salons 1 and 2 at the Edmonton Northlands AgriCom starting at 2:30 p.m. Hendrik Wildeboer, the 1990 provincial 4-H champion public speaker, will be the master of ceremonies. Edmonton Northlands and Alberta Agriculture are joint sponsors of this year's competition. For more information, contact Anita Anderson at Alberta Agriculture's 4-H branch at 422-4444.

AGGIE DAYS, DAIRY CLASSIC START APRIL 18 IN CALGARY

Aggie Days held in conjunction with the annual Dairy Classic offers an educational opportunity for Calgary and area students to learn more about the agricultural legacy in their province. Both events start on April 18 and run through April 20 at the Calgary Exhibition and Stampede's Agriculture Pavilion. The whole family has a special invitation to a public awareness day on April 20. Along with livestock, soil conservation, flour milling, farm safety, recycling and other displays and demonstrations, a corporate cow milking challenge and celebrity ag challenge are part of the final day's activities. For more information, contact Lynda Sharai at 261-9316.

UFA PARTNER IN "OIL RECOVERY ALBERTA"

United Farmers of Alberta (UFA) petroleum agencies across the province will now be collecting used oil and associated plastic oil containers.

(Cont'd)

UFA PARTNER IN "OIL RECOVERY ALBERTA" (cont'd)

Collection, at no charge, will be done in more than 125 communities across the province. Once collected, the Alberta Special Waste Management Corporation (ASWMC) will arrange for the used oil to be re-refined into new products. The joint venture project between UFA and ASWMC will cost between $300,000 and $600,000 in its first year. The partners expect to collect between three and six million litres during the program's initial year. The "Oil Recovery Alberta" program was launched earlier this month. UFA and ASWMC representatives stressed the main objective of the program is to prevent dumping and accumulation of used oil in Alberta's environment. Brochures outlining program details will be available through UFA bulk agencies throughout the province. For more information, contact Kelly Eaton with UFA in Calgary at 258-4500 or Tom Thackeray with the ASWMC in Edmonton at 427-5029 or toll-free at 1-800-272-8873.

WORLD BLACKSMITH COMPETITION COMING TO CALGARY IN JULY

This year's Calgary Stampede will be the site of the 12th annual world championship blacksmiths' competition July 6 through 9. Entries for the competition close on April 30. During four days of competition points are accumulated during eagle eye, forging and team events. The top ten blacksmiths then compete in a horseshoeing final to determine the world champion. Contestants will be judged by Edward Martin of Scotland and Canadian Hank McEwan. Prize money for the competition totals $10,000. For prize lists and other information, contact the Calgary Exhibition and Stampede at 261-0271 in Calgary or toll-free (North America) at 1-800-661-1260.

KLINCK EDMONTON LECTURE AT AGRICOM

Anyone interested in attending the Dr. Leonard S. Klinck lecture in Edmonton is asked to pre-register by March 18. The lecture by Ivan Head is March 26 at Salons 1 and 2 at Edmonton Northlands AgriCom (not Edmonton Inn as previously reported). The lecture is preceded by a banquet starting at 5:30. To pre-register or for more information, call John Stephen at 986-6895.

AGRI-NEWS Alberta Agriculture, Print Media Branch

AGRI-NEWS

March 25, 1991

For immediate release

CANADIANA

APR - 8 1991

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Alberta
AGRICULTURE
Print Media Branch

Phone: (403) 427-2121

March 25, 1991
For immediate release

April 30 deadline to sign up for GRIP

Alberta farmers have until April 30 to sign up for the Gross Revenue Insurance Plan (GRIP).

GRIP provides farmers with both yield (crop insurance) and revenue insurance. "When Alberta farmers sign up for crop insurance this year, they will also be able to buy revenue protection. By signing up for both components, farmers get full GRIP benefits," says Glenn Gorrell, general manager of the Alberta Hail and Crop Insurance Corporation. The corporation will administer both programs.

Coverage and premium rates for the revenue protection program are available at Alberta Hail and Crop Insurance Corporation offices across the province. Gorrell also notes, for this year only the crop insurance cancellation deadline has been extended to April 22.

Farmers who sign up for both programs will be able to determine their target revenue for each crop before spring seeding. An indexed moving average price (IMAP) is used to calculate the target revenue. Fifteen year average prices are indexed for changes in input costs.

Individual premiums are based on premium rates that reflect the risk associated with historical and projected crop yields and prices. The farmer's premium for revenue protection is calculated by multiplying his average yield by the support price and premium rate. Farmers pay one-third of the total premium with the provincial and federal governments sharing the other two-thirds.

For example, the support price for red spring wheat has been set at $4.15 per bushel. Support price times the farmer's average yield of 30 bu./ac. gives the target revenue of $124.50/ac. The total premium rate for red spring wheat has been set at 22.5 per cent. To determine the premium, this rate is multiplied by the target revenue (.225 times $124.50 = $28.01). The farmer's premium is one-third of the $28.01, which is $9.34 per acre. Crop insurance premiums are in addition to revenue protection premiums.

Interim payments may be triggered by poor prices and outlook. Full payments won't be made until after the end of the 1991-92 crop year.

(Cont'd)

April 30 deadline to sign up for GRIP (cont'd)

Gorrell notes to receive the full target revenue the farmer must be enrolled in the crop insurance program as well as the revenue protection program. Farmers do have four options, they can sign up for either or both programs or not participate.

Federal Agriculture Minister Don Mazankowski and Alberta Associate Agriculture Minister Shirley McClellan announced the premium rates and prices levels for GRIP calculations earlier this month.

"I am pleased that we are now able to offer this vital information to our producers so they may make sound management decisions," said McClellan in the price and premium announcement. "I am confident that this new safety net program will improve Alberta's grains and oilseeds producers outlook for 1991-92."

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Contact: Glenn Gorrell
782-4661

Jim Kiss
422-9156

REVENUE INSURANCE PREMIUM RATES AND SUPPORT PRICES
ALBERTA 1991-92

Crop	Total % Rate	Producer Premium rate	Support Price/bu.
Red Spring Wheat	22.5	7.5	$4.15
Durum Wheat	28.5	9.5	4.52
Winter Wheat	24.0	8.0	3.84
Soft White Spring Wheat	22.5	7.5	3.76
Other Wheat	25.5	8.5	3.76
Barley	18.0	6.0	2.18
Oats	18.0	6.0	1.30
Canola	12.0	4.0	6.55
Flax	18.0	6.0	7.29
Rye	31.5	10.5	2.90
Mixed Grain	18.0	6.0	1.84
Mustard	13.5	4.5	6.44
Grain Corn	9.0	3.0	3.25
Peas	16.5	5.5	5.39
Fababeans	12.0	4.0	*0.08/lb
Triticale	22.5	7.5	3.70
Lentils	24.5	8.0	*0.22/lb
Safflower	15.0	5.0	*0.13/lb
Sunflower (oil)	15.0	5.0	*0.11/lb
Sunflower (confection)	9.0	3.0	*0.149/lb

* price per pound

March 25, 1991
For immediate release

Farm Weather Line now in seven locations

Specialized farm weather forecasts for the coming crop year are now a local phone call away for Red Deer area farmers.

"Producers now have even greater access to current agricultural weather forecast information with the addition of the Red Deer Farm Weather Line," says Peter Dzikowski, Alberta Agriculture weather resource specialist with the conservation and development branch in Edmonton.

Red Deer was added to the Alberta Farm Weather Line service last fall. Since then, area farmers have called a local number--342-7322--instead of making a long distance call.

The Red Deer line is one of seven in the province. All the lines operate year-round. More than 260,000 calls were made to the Farm Weather Line during 1990. This was a 67 per cent increase over the previous year notes Dzikowski.

The Farm Weather Line originally operated from four locations: Grande Prairie, Edmonton, Calgary and Lethbridge. In 1989 it expanded to include Coronation and Medicine Hat.

When the service started in 1985, it was limited to seeding through harvest, April through October. High demand through a trial period in the fall of 1989 and winter of 1990 opened the line for the whole year.

Alberta Agriculture and Environment Canada's Atmospheric Environment Service co-operate to provide telephone access to up-to-date weather forecasts specific to each region. The updates are four times daily at 5:30 a.m., 11:30 a.m., 4:30 p.m. and 9:30 p.m.

Farmers call the line in their region. Long distance toll charges apply outside local calling areas. Telephone numbers are: Grande Prairie, 539-7654; Edmonton, 468-9196; Red Deer, 342-7322; Coronation, 57-TEMPS (578-3677); Calgary, 295-1003; Lethbridge, 328-RAIN (328-7246); and, Medicine Hat, 526-6224. (A map is attached outlining the area covered by each line.)

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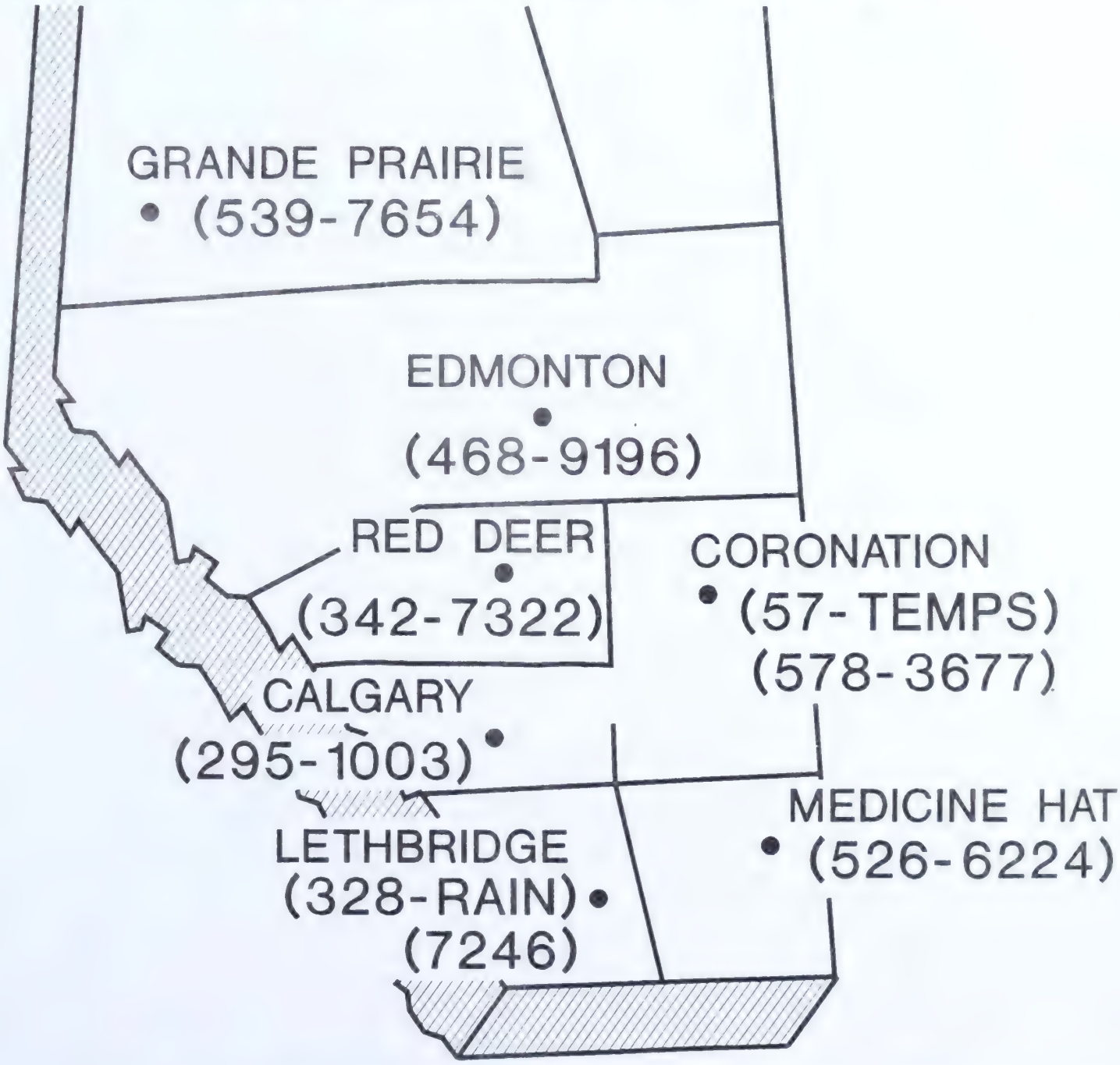
Contact: Peter Dzikowski
422-4385

FARM WEATHER LINE



March 25, 1991
For immediate release

Meadow bromegrass can improve tame pasture

Successful research results plus farmer use means more meadow bromegrass is being seeded in Alberta pastures says an Alberta Agriculture specialist.

"It's encouraging," says Myron Bjorge, forage crops supervisor. "since Alberta producers have needed this kind of grass to improve their tame pastures."

Meadow bromegrass is an early growing and palatable grass. It produces a dense stand of grass, making it good grazing for livestock.

Vern Baron, a researcher with Agriculture Canada's Lacombe research station, studied meadow bromegrass in the late 1980s. His research showed meadow bromegrass was high yielding. Based on four clippings per season, it out yielded smooth bromegrass, orchardgrass, meadow foxtail and crested wheatgrass at the Lacombe-based trials. As well, it gave the most regrowth from early July until the last clipping in mid-September and slightly more production than orchardgrass on two clippings during the same period.

"These characteristics, from its palatability to yield, all make meadow bromegrass an attractive alternative for tame pasture," says Bjorge.

As well, meadow bromegrass is very responsive to high fertility and good grazing management. He recommends rotational grazing--rapid even grazing--followed by a rest period as a good system. "This should permit three or four grazings in most areas suitable for growing meadow bromegrass."

Meadow bromegrass is adapted to the grey wooded, black and dark brown soil and irrigation areas in the province. This encompasses most the province, with the exception of the brown soil zones in the southeast.

Hardiness appears to be satisfactory based on limited experience with meadow bromegrass in Alberta he says. One notable trait is it's intolerance to flooding. Hardiness and longevity should both be considered as medium range he adds. "This grass requires good management for good yield and productivity.

(Cont'd)

Meadow bromegrass can improve tame pasture (cont'd)

"As well, it needs fairly high seeding rates, since seed size is large for a grass and it doesn't have creeping roots that quickly thicken the stand."

For example, a mixture seeded with 10 lb./ac. of meadow bromegrass plus one to three lb./ac. of alfalfa is suitable in black and grey wooded soil zones. The higher alfalfa seeding rates require production management to minimize bloat risks he notes.

A pure stand of meadow bromegrass needs at least 12 lbs. of seed per acre, and more, says Bjorge, is better.

Meadow bromegrass should be seeded at one-quarter to three-quarters of an inch deep. The best seeding method, he says, is a seed drill rather than surface spreading and harrowing the seed.

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Contact: Myron Bjorge
782-4641

March 25, 1991
For immediate release

Family communication interwoven with "unity"

Family communication is built through unity was the message Gordon Colledge gave to participants at the recent Managing Agriculture for Profit (MAP'91) conference.

Communication he says, is "something we learn to do and something we can keep improving". And, good communication binds a family together says the family support co-ordinator of Lethbridge Community College's family studies and rural initiatives program. "One thing communication can do is build unity," he adds. The reverse also holds true, unity can build better family communication.

Each letter in unity, College says, provides an important communication concept. The concepts are: uplift, need, intimate communication, trust and yield. All of these can help overcome the misconnections in communication. Misconnections encompass "the what comes out of their mouth isn't what they mean" or the "should have known what I meant" phenomena.

Uplift is praise or encouragement. For the average person, Colledge says, it takes four positive messages to wipe out a negative one. His advice is to check what you're saying and how you're saying it. "You might be so negative your children can't wait to get away from you," he says.

Need is the next building block and starts in marriage which he describes as a "need meeting relationship". Need also recognizes value and worth of each individual in the family.

Intimate conversation can be a major area of misconnection. It's an area, he says, where men can have difficulty, especially if their idea of being intimate is "being in the same room or yard as their wife". Intimate conversation is the sixth level of conversation that starts with cliche--such as greetings and weather-- moving through gossip, opinion and feelings levels to intimacy, and finally transparency.

There are differences in the ways men and women communicate, he says, and those are the roots of some family problems. Women are more verbal as well as being able to communicate on more levels than men.

(Cont'd)

Family communication interwoven with "unity" (cont'd)

Men use an average of 12,500 words daily and women twice that many. "Men sometimes dismiss this disparity as a lot of talk about nothing," he says, but through verbalizing their thoughts and feelings, women don't bottle up emotion. This mental health exercise has physical repercussions. "Men don't verbalize what's going on, women do and it's easier on their body parts."

For a lot of men, there's a line drawn between opinion and feeling and opinion is as far as they go in communicating, he says. "I'm quite convinced we as men don't have the vocabulary [to go any further]."

That vocabulary may be linked to linguistic skills and behaviour patterns Colledge says. Little girls use more actual words than little boys when learning to talk. Boys learn on the playground, he adds, the big noise wins and that attitude eventually gets transferred into the adult world.

While men have to recognize the needs of their wife--woman generally need more intimate conversation, about 45 to 60 minutes daily--and attempt to meet the need. Women, meanwhile, have to understand it's difficult for men to talk about something until they figure it out. There must be an understanding Colledge says, that silence isn't necessarily a rejection.

He also noted that verbal communication is only about seven per cent of communication. Tone is about 38 per cent, while non-verbal communication is more than half--55 per cent--of what we say to each other.

The final two concepts in unity are trust and yield. Trust is necessary between family members to maintain and preserve unity. Yield, draws on the strengths and skills of everyone in the family.

Throughout his presentation Colledge emphasized relationships are the most important part of life. "The whole thing we got to understand is that nothing else matters except relationships," he says. Strong relationships can weather any storm, and current difficulties in the agricultural industry shouldn't shake up a strong marriage contract.

Managing Agriculture for Profit's theme for 1991 was "farm business is family business". The annual farm management retreat at the Kananaskis Lodge features experts from across North America discussing a broad range of financial, management and human resource issues.

AGRI-NEWS Alberta Agriculture, Print Media Branch

March 25, 1991
For immediate release

Freedom to Choose addendum released

Agriculture Minister Ernie Isley has released an addendum to "Freedom to Choose", his proposal for the reform of agricultural transportation policy.

The new document provides additional information and clarification on matters addressed in Freedom to Choose, and was developed with the assistance of farmers from across Western Canada. It contains amendments to items outlined in the original proposal, as well as further information and explanation regarding areas in which farmers had expressed interest or concern.

The Freedom to Choose proposal calls for a buy-out of the Crow Benefit, accompanied by the introduction of efficiencies and lower-cost initiatives in the grain handling and transportation system.

"I would like to emphasize that this addition to our Freedom to Choose proposal was made possible through a process of consultation with individual farmers, farm groups, and other industry stakeholders," says Isley. "The feedback we received from the farm sector was tremendously valuable to us in refining and improving our proposal. Freedom to Choose represents a hugely important opportunity for the farmers of Alberta, and we want to be sure it reflects their concerns and interests fully."

Freedom to Choose was released in September 1990. Following its release, Alberta Agriculture staff have received more than 300 calls on its Freedom to Choose toll-free information line, and responded to more than 60 invitations from producer groups and industry organizations to discuss the proposal. Both the minister and associate minister have attended numerous local and interprovincial meetings to address the proposal.

"I would like to thank all those producers and farm groups who have taken the time to push for the information they need to make a well-informed decision on Freedom to Choose, and to point out ways to improve the proposal. We've made every effort to respond to their suggestions, while adhering to our key objectives for transportation policy reform," says Isley.

(Cont'd)

Freedom to Choose addendum released (cont'd)

The minister notes Freedom to Choose, with the addendum, is a viable proposal for consideration within the ongoing federal-provincial review of transportation policy.

The toll-free Freedom to Choose hotline will remain open weekdays from 8:15 am to 4:30 pm, until April 30, 1991, to take calls from those with questions or comments about the proposal. The hotline number is 1-800-661-0056.

Contact: Gordon Herrington
427-2417

Cliff Weber
427-0364

March 29, 1991
For immediate release

Careers conference focus for two Alberta 4-Hers

Encouragement to reach any goal they set was given to the delegates at the 1991 National 4-H Careers Conference in Winnipeg last week.

Alberta delegates, Doug Logan of Lomond and Rolanda Ostrom of Okotoks, were two of sixteen national delegates at the conference hosted by Manitoba. They joined 35 Manitoba 4-H members at the conference.

"This national careers theme conference is an important event on the Canadian 4-H Council's program agenda," says Marguerite Stark, Alberta Agriculture provincial 4-H camping and exchange specialist. "The conference is an exploration of career opportunities and broadens the horizons of the delegates as they start to make decisions about their future."

Participants are especially encouraged to recognize and appreciate the importance of agriculture in Canada's economy. During the conference they learn about the broad scope of jobs available in the agriculture industry.

As well, the delegates had the opportunity to visit cultural, educational and business facilities in the Winnipeg area including the Royal Winnipeg Ballet, the University of Manitoba and one of the conference sponsors, the Royal Bank.

Ostrom, 17, is an 11-year member of the Foothills Sheep Club. Logan, also 17, has been a member of the Lomond 4-H Club for the last seven years. They were chosen to attend the conference at the provincial 4-H selections program last spring. Trip awards are based on community and 4-H involvement plus interpersonal skills.

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Contact: Marguerite Stark
948-8509

EDITOR'S NOTE

To: Editors and News Directors

National Soil Conservation Week is April 8 through 14. Articles in support of this national awareness week will appear in this and the next two issues of **Agri-News**. If you didn't receive a media kit and would like one, please contact Barb Shackel at 422-4385.

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March 25, 1991
For immediate release

W.O. Mitchell lends novel to support soil conservation awareness

*In **Who has seen the wind**, W. O. Mitchell weaves prairie winds, from gentle breezes in long grasses to catastrophic dust storms, into a classic story of the Prairies.*

The novel chronicles a young Saskatchewan boy's coming of age in the 1930s. Its ring of authenticity is particularly poignant when dealing with the plight of farmers in the Depression's drought and dust. Near the end of the novel, it's revealed the boy, Brian, wants to be a "dirt doctor", an ambition fuelled by a farmer uncle who has declared the prairie sick.

His uncle, Sean, is a visionary who berates neighbour to banker on the merits of conservation principles. Sean's reply to his brother's simple, "How's it going?", carries the same relevance today as the words did when they were first published in 1947. Author W.O. Mitchell has consented that they be used to promote National Soil Conservation Week (April 8-14) in 1991.

"How's it going?" asked Gerald taking a cigar from his vest pocket.

The concern that had been in Sean's eyes was replaced by a sudden intense light. In the course of the drought years Sean had changed from a bewildered man, watching dry winds lick up the topsoil from his land, to a man with a message. He was keeper of the Lord's Vineyard, literally.

And now, as he often did, he launched into one of his evangelistic denunciations.

"Awful! She's plum awful, Gerald! Stupid!" he cried. "They never hearda strip farmin' an' they don't wanta hear! 'Plant ye crops,' I tell 'em, 'in strips acrosst the prevailin' winds--fight the wind an' fight the drifting--stop clawin' her plumb back fer wheat or oats or barley or flax! Farm her with her hearts an' brain, you prats an' raise some pigs and cattle too! Fergit ye goddam little red tractors an' yer goddam yella-wheeled cars an' yer trips to Washington an' Oregon an' California!

(Cont'd)

W.O. Mitchell lends novel to support soil conservation awareness (cont'd)

"'Jist look at her--creased an' pocked an' cracked--no grass to hold the topsoil down! That's what happens when you crop her out an' away fer the winter--then back agin in the spring to scratch at her agin--off agin an' away agin! You wanta travel an' so does she! I seen her travelin' on a first-class ticket by air--she's bin to the Coast with you--a thousand million sections of her--black cloudsa dust blacker than all yer greedy souls--lifted up an' travelin'--travelin' clear to Jesus!'"

Brian watched his uncle, open-mouthed. Then he turned to see his grandmother in the kitchen doorway, her mouth downcurving in bitter disapproval.

"Come into the kitchen! Yer bread an' milk's ready!"

Brian moved slowly towards her, still half-dazed and hypnotized by the spell of his uncle's words.

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(Reprinted from **Who has seen the Wind** with permission of the author)

March 25, 1991
For immediate release

Kits bring soil conservation into the classroom

Mr. Soil E. Rosion is on trial with Walter Wastenot prosecuting the defendant, while Dudley Growright attempts to defend his client.

The scenario is one that could be playing in an Alberta elementary school classroom as teachers incorporate learning activities from a soil conservation kit. The kit, distributed for the first time in October 1990, was designed to support grade four through six language arts, science and social studies curricula.

The main parts of the kit are a student activity booklet, "Conserving soil for the next generation" and a teacher's guide. Both the student booklet and the teacher's book detail a number of activities--such as the mock trial--related to soil conservation issues.

"We can already call the kit a tremendous success," says Betty Gabert, Agriculture in Classroom's co-ordinator. "Teachers who have used it have been just delighted. And, they've said they hope to see more agricultural-related resources of this calibre in the future."

Cathy Joy, an Edmonton teacher, is one of the enthusiastic users. "The resource is extremely well done and fits the curriculum very well. I have requested more kits for my colleagues who are looking forward to using them in the spring," she says.

Another measure of the kit's success has been the response to a student "design your own" soil conservation button. Students were invited to send their finished design to Alberta Agriculture's conservation and development branch to be made into buttons. The branch received about 1,000 designs between November and mid December last year.

Teachers also report the students are happy to take the booklet home. "One section describes soil conservation as something they can practice at home," says Barb Shackel, conservation awareness specialist with Alberta Agriculture.

(Cont'd)

Kits bring soil conservation into the classroom (cont'd)

"We thought that was a very important part of the message to students, especially urban ones, relating the issue to them and their immediate world," she adds. For example, students are asked to look at the dirt on their street and asked where it comes from and where it goes.

The full color booklets are illustrated partly with student art work from a 1990 poster competition.

Kits are available by contacting Alberta Agriculture's Agriculture in the Classroom program in Edmonton at 427-2403.

The soil conservation kit project was funded by the Canada-Alberta Soil Conservation Initiative (CASCI).

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Contact: Betty Gabert
427-2403

Barb Shackel
422-4385